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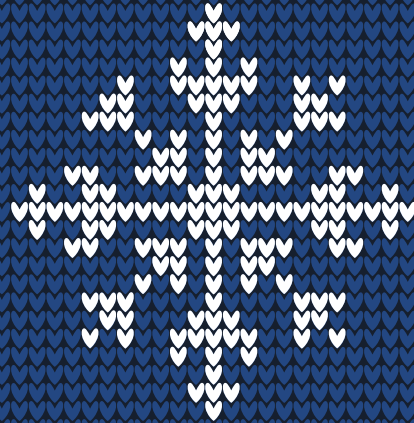
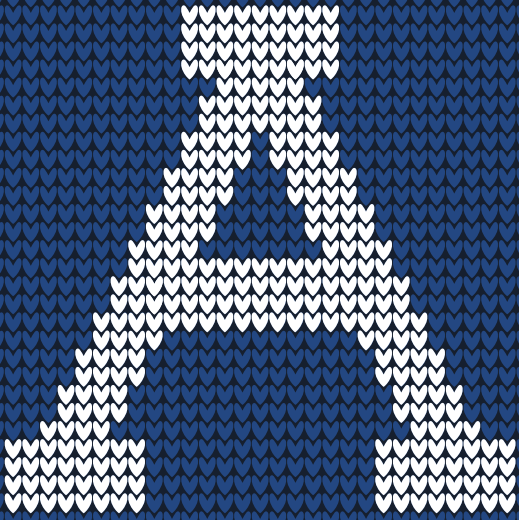
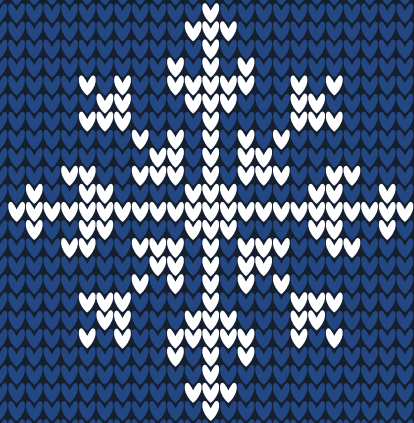




PHOTO FROM Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A's long lines affecting other retailers

By Karcin Harris
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When Cache County's Chick-fil-A re-opened after several months of being closed, it seemed like everyone in the valley was ecstatic. Everyone, that is, except the small business owners who share the parking lot with Chick-fil-A.

Since reopening, the restaurant has had huge lines that reach the other retailers in the back of the parking lot; stores like Costa Vida, Crumbl Cookies and Sweetly Divine.

Mark Grodkowski, the owner of Sweetly Divine, shared this Facebook post the day Chick-fil-A reopened for business. He said he's happy for Chick-fil-A's success, but he can't believe the lines.

"I'm excited for successful people, but you have to accommodate for traffic," he said. "People in cars get upset and yell and flip each other off. What is this world coming to? It's just chicken."

Grodkowski, a pastry chef from Poland, jokingly said some of Chick-fil-A's customers are willing to wait in line for 20 minutes just for a cup of lemonade.

"It's about the lemonade," he said. "Make your own. It's not hard, you just need lemons and sugar and water."

He suggested that another Chick-fil-A be opened at the south end of the valley to alleviate the amount of custom-

ers. Chick-fil-A is located across from the Cache Valley Mall on Main Street.

Grodkowski said Chick-fil-A's owner stopped by shortly after re-opening and tried to buy everything in the shop to make up for the trouble caused by long lines. Grodkowski said he appreciated the gesture, but it was the customers who were causing the stress.

The Statesman was unable to reach Chick-fil-A for comment.

"People are animals like cows," Grodkowski said, laughing. "They should be dressed up as cows and line up. Eat more chicken."

Grodkowski said Chick-fil-A's lines surprised him, as they are there from morning to evening.

"I don't think there's enough people in the valley," he said. "I think they come in the morning, go home and digest, come for lunch, go home to digest and then come again for dinner."

Grodkowski said it's difficult for local places to thrive in the valley because people seem to like the chain restaurants.

"There are so many jewels in the valley with different foods, but people here like chain restaurants," he said. "They're even adding an In-N-Out. How many burger places are we gonna need?"

He added: "It's OK, everybody likes different things." Grodkowski believes the only thing that will shorten

Chick-fil-A's lines might be the opening of In-N-Out.

Grodkowski said he loves the people of Cache Valley and thanks them for their support. He added that Sweetly Divine will be closing for two weeks, and not because of Chick-fil-A.

The shop is closing to fill a huge jelly order for Crumbl Cookies.

Crumbl is releasing a new cookie in December. The company asked Sweetly Divine to provide the jelly for all of their locations.

There aren't enough employees at the shop to stay open while they fill the large order, Grodkowski said. He added that he's both excited and stressed about the opportunity.

In the meantime, he said, Chick-fil-A's customers will at least be able to notice Sweetly Divine while they wait in the long line for chicken and lemonade.

Crumbl Cookies, just around the corner from Sweetly Divine, has also noticed the long lines.

Employee Josh Throckmorton said a few customers have complained about the lines and the wait.

"It's been pretty busy," he said. "It's slowed down a little, so it's long, but not as crazy as it was that first week they reopened."

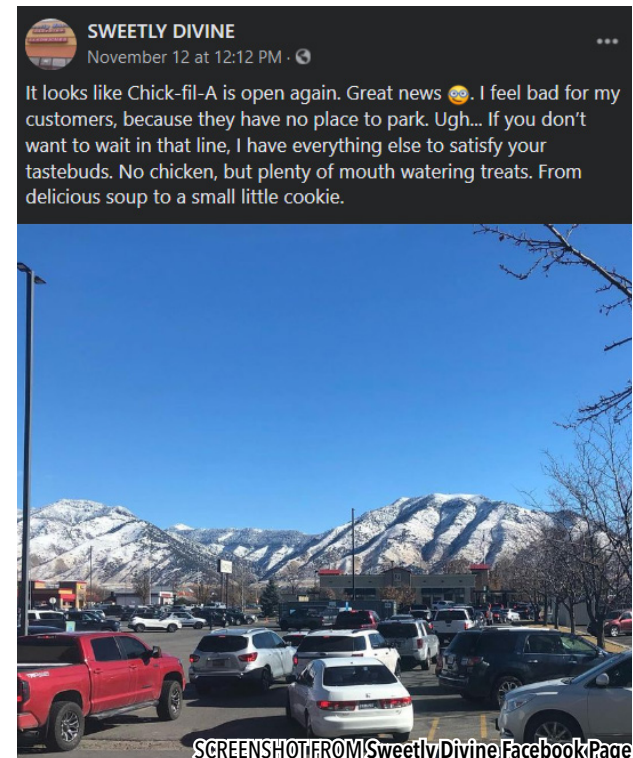
Throckmorton said if anything, Chick-fil-A's reopening has helped business.

"When Chick-fil-A originally closed, it was slower for us because people usually go there and get cookies after," he said. "So we've been getting more people now coming and getting an after-meal dessert."

Throckmorton doesn't think the lines will hurt business during the holidays.

"Our busiest time is December. We're always busy around holidays," he said. "I don't think it'll affect us too much because people get more cookies in the winter. January is our hard time because of New Year's resolutions and people don't eat cookies as much."

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SCREENSHOT FROM Sweetly Divine Facebook Page



Funerals during the pandemic: Weird, different and better

By Karcin Harris
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

I was in my parent's kitchen when we got the news.

Rob, a man my father knew for my whole life, had passed away after being caught in an avalanche.

This was in April, a month after the World Health Organization had declared COVID-19 a pandemic. So in the midst of our grief, we wondered if there would be a funeral.

There was one, five days later, but it was different than it would have been under normal circumstances.

The service that would have normally been held inside a church would be held entirely outdoors.

It was in a cemetery in Teton County, Idaho, surrounded by hills and farm fields. The ground was completely covered with snow, but it was warm enough that we didn't need jackets. The sky was blue.

Our friend was a man who spent nearly all of his time outdoors, especially in the snow. "God's country," he often called it. So, as we all stood in the cemetery, I kept hearing people say the same thing.

"This is how he would've wanted it."

This outdoor funeral was much more fitting to our friend's personality and lifestyle than what it would've been otherwise — an indoor service in a stuffy chapel under fluorescent lights.

And this has gotten me thinking: maybe

this pandemic has opened our eyes to different, better ways to grieve.

Harley Barnes, a student at Utah State University, attended a service at the beginning of November for her great-grandfather Reed.

Her family decided to just do a small viewing in McCammon, Idaho, instead of a larger funeral.

"It wasn't a funeral where you go and hear talks and everyone is able to be there," she said. "It was just close family."

This service was different. People who wanted to attend couldn't. Older family members also couldn't come due to health risks. Barnes didn't get to hear her family recount Reed's life.

But it was nice this way.

There's a lot of planning involved with funerals, and it's especially stressful to plan things during a pandemic. Since there was a limit on attendees and less pressure on the service overall, Barnes said she was grateful her grandma didn't have to go through as much stress as she would have under normal circumstances.

"I know you get a lot of help with funerals and people serve the family, but it was nice to have it be smaller and just the family instead of assigning talks, figuring out who will do this or that," Barnes said.

In addition to less stress and more personal family time, Barnes said there was another surprising perk from the pandemic: masks.

"Masks are kinda nice, as weird as that sounds, because you can totally just ugly cry and not really worry about who sees you," Barnes said.

USU freshman Kai Beattie attended a funeral for his friend Kyle in October. The service, held in Ashton, Idaho, was done outside so attendees could social distance.

Beattie described the event as "very, very weird."

"For some reason it felt less solemn than a regular service in a chapel," he said. "Normally when you go into a church for something like this, it feels suffocatingly somber, like a really heavy atmosphere."

Though the service was different than any other funeral Beattie had been to, he said different was good.

The service was short, which meant less stress for Kyle's family, but Beattie said the best part was the music. Kyle loved the Grateful Dead, and the rock band's songs were played through speakers at the funeral.

"I definitely think Kyle approved of the music selection, which probably wouldn't have flown in the chapel," Beattie said. "And I think he would've preferred the funeral to be outside."

Maggie Mattinson, a USU student, lost her friend Reece over the summer. She felt the negative impacts of pandemic at the service.

"Funerals are times when I want to be close with people and the pandemic is so against that," she said.

The service was held in August at Brighton Resort. Because of the travel restrictions, the ski resort live-streamed the service so people who were unable to physically attend could still watch.

Reece and his family loved to travel. They spent some time living in an RV and went all over the United States. They also did service trips in other countries, so they met a lot of people. And those people were able to mourn and remember Reece because of that online option.

"It was important for those people to watch the service online when they normally wouldn't be able to see it," Mattinson said.

At the outdoor service, guests wore masks. However, Mattinson said people still got close to each other.

"I think a lot of people, including me, were like, 'I need a hug,'" she said. "It was like peak isolation but also such a sad day. So even though we were all wearing masks and sticking with our families, there were still lots of hugs like you'd expect at a normal service."

Mattinson said a few other aspects of the



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Cover art by James Clayton

The Christmas song blacklist

December 7, 2020
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By Sage Souza
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

As the Christmas season is now officially upon us, everyone is itching for some much-needed holiday respite from the rough year behind us. Music is one of the few aspects of the holiday season that is consistently comforting, even though we'll probably hate the sound of jingle bells by January. However, there are a few songs that frequent the radio, department store speakers, sidewalk buskers and restaurant performers that should be banned from the airways and all streaming services so they can no longer wreak their racket upon the unsuspecting public.

“Drummer Boy” — Justin Bieber and Busta Rhymes

If you or a loved one has suffered through listening to this song, you could be entitled to monetary compensation. “Little Drummer Boy” should be avoided in any situation that isn't in a church anyway, and this unnecessary modernization of an endearing song only paved the way for and legitimized the genre that is Christian pop/rap.

Anything from any of the Pentatonix Christmas albums If you want to play any of these songs, just listen to the original version. There is absolutely no good reason to ruin somebody's holiday by playing an acapella version of an instrumental song, like Tchaikovsky's beloved “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” featured on the “That's Christmas to Me” album.

“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”

There is far too much ambiguity in this song for children to recognize that the father is dressed up as Santa Claus and that the mother was not, in fact, just having an affair with Santa on Christmas Eve. Ho ho ho.

“Twelve Days of Christmas”

This song has the same energy as the songs you would learn at summer camp. They're so much fun to sing and dance to, but guaranteed, undeniable torture for anyone forced to listen to them. If you're itching to sing about five golden rings or a disconcerting amount of birds, the shower or your car are also wonderful available venues.

“Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer”

Ah, yes. What a wonderful way to celebrate peace on



PHOTO VIA Chuck Jones/NBC (1966)

earth and goodwill toward men — singing about your grandparent getting stamped by a team of what essentially are giant magical dogs with horns.

“All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth”

See “Twelve Days of Christmas” above.

“The Chipmunk Song”

The release of the “Alvin and the Chipmunks” remake was undoubtedly destined to inflict a collective migraine over Gen X as parents, caregivers and teachers for at least a few years. The fact this song has persevered long past the relative success of the franchise and is played year after year is just a pleasant recurring nightmare. In the words of Tina Fey in “Mean Girls,” it really is the “cherry on top of a fantastic year.”

“Baby, It's Cold Outside” — She & Him

This is a cherished classic, but the eerie indie-acous-

tic beat behind Zooey Deschanel and Matthew Steven Ward's echoey talk-singing offers a twist that was not asked for nor enjoyed. Not to mention the unnecessary gender-reversal.

“Nuttin' For Christmas”

No comment.

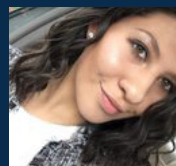
“Santa Buddy” — Michael Bublé

Is an explanation necessary? While everybody loves the Bublé — or “the bubbly” — it's impossible to justify this weirdly gender-specific cover. Eartha Kitt did a fine job of it herself.

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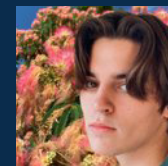
@sageksouza

TWEETS
of the
WEEK



@Paulinarivera13

spotify wrapped 2020 but instead it's the playlist you have for when your parents get into the car



@Soeljchillinger

Toy story 2 has yet to explain how a stuffed horse kept pace with a commercial aircraft taking off on a runway

What your fave



Harry Potter

character says about you



By Emily White
LIFESTYLES SENIOR WRITER

Harry Potter: You're basic.

Ronald Weasley: You're overlooked by your friends and family, but don't worry, they'll notice you eventually.

Hermione Granger: You're a good person.

Luna Lovegood: You probably like Alice in Wonderland and you want to be crazy, but you're not quite there yet.

Neville Longbottom: Either you've had a glow up or you are in the process of glowing up.

Ginny Weasley: You're either stupid or you've read the books and know that Ginny is 1000x better in the books than in the movies.

Fred and George Weasley: You only go for funny guys, but only if they're as funny as the Weasley twins.

Dean Thomas and Seamus Finnigan: You have impeccable taste. And you are a true friend.

Draco Malfoy: You just like Tom Felton, not Draco. That, or you like guys you think you can fix. Give it up. You can't fix him.

Bellatrix Lestrange: You are mentally unstable and a little bit terrifying.

Sirius Black: Quarantine has been particularly awful for you...mask up and take yourself on a walk.

Snape: You're a simp.

Remus Lupin: Either you get roped into doing sketchy stuff with your friends or you're a goodie goodie.

Dobby: You have done nothing wrong. You're perfect.

Tonks: Stop dying your hair.

Hagrid: You're too precious for this world.

Voldemort: You have a weird laugh.

Cedric Diggory: He's the only reason you like the fourth movie.

Umbridge: You don't exist and if you do, pink is not your color.

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The Wavelength



Elevate — St. Lucia



Buttercup — Jack Stauber



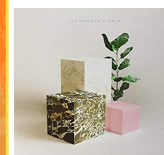
Mind Over Matter — Young the Giant



Dissolve — Absufacto



How to Dance in Time — Blue October

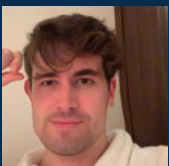


Bad Dream — Jungle Giants



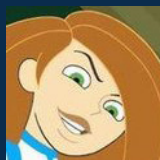
@veryharryhill

Imagine if there was a Venmo Wrapped



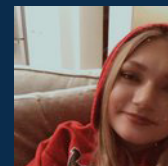
@dietz_meredith

no they're not "symptoms of depression." they're blues clues



@ChronicVirgo

There's no one who loves FaceTime more than characters in a hallmark Christmas movie



Air Force flies away with win at USU

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By Jacob Nielson
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Air Force Falcons were flying high all night long Thursday, and there didn't seem to be much Utah State could do about it.

AFA scored touchdowns on five of their seven drives, utilizing their esteemed option offense to rack up 320 rushing yards to roll to a 35-7 win over an overwhelmed Aggie football team on a freezing December night in Logan.

USU's offense – which was without starting running back Devontae Henry-Cole and receiver Savon Scarver due to COVID issues – was affected by self-inflicting wounds all night long and failed to sustain drives, resulting in just seven points – tied for their lowest point total of the season.

“The effort was really good by our guys, but the execution wasn't as good,” said head coach Frank Maile. “With these guys man they eat up the clock and that's what they do for a living and so it just wasn't good enough tonight. As the game went on – the offense kind of lost their mojo a little bit as far

as trying to be on the field and controlling the clock. Defensively we had opportunities to get off the football field but we couldn't do it and we left them on the field longer than we wanted to.

The Aggie defense looked committed to stopping the option offense, and appeared like they had a shot at early on- but the big plays killed them. A first-quarter, 23-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Brad Roberts – who finished with 98 yards on the ground. A second-quarter, 49-yard touchdown pass from sophomore QB Haaziq Daniels to senior receiver Ben Peterson. And another second-quarter touchdown from Daniels, this time a 37-yard touchdown run.

“It's Air Force so you gotta be disciplined,” said senior linebacker Nick Heninger. You can't win games if you're 90 or 95 percent disciplined because if you give up a big play they score, they capitalize and they had three of those in the first half.”

An added element to an already effective rushing attack was Air Force's passing game Daniels finished with a season-high 127 yards passing on just nine attempts. This kept the Aggie defense unbalanced and unsure what to expect all night long.

“It wasn't what Air Force usually does,” said Heninger. “We still prepared for any and all situations, but that was for sure an unorthodox game plan for them to pass as much as you did. When you see early success with something, you don't stop. So they just kept going back to it.”

Offensively things started well for the Aggies. The opening drive was a 15-play 65-yard drive that shaved 8:04 of the clock. Freshman Elelyon Noa was running the ball effectively, and junior quarterback Andrew Peasley – who finished 17/32 on his completions, good for 123 passing yards – was hitting open receivers. The Aggies went 5/5 on third downs, the fifth being a four-yard touchdown pass from Peasley to senior wide receiver Jordan Nathan with 6:56 to go in the quarter.

“I was really impressed,” Maile said about the opening drive. “The touchdown was big time.”

But self-inflicting wounds would hurt the young Aggie offense. Two personal fouls in the first half, an illegal motion penalty, several missed passes, and an interception that negated a potential field goal attempt to end the half – just to name a few mistakes continually got in the Aggies way.

“It was a lot of mental things that we were doing wrong,” said senior receiver Jordan Nathan. “We were dropping balls, trading penalties, and you can't do that against a team like Air Force.”

A pivotal play – if there was such a thing in this game – came with 12:37 left in the third quarter. After the Aggie D had forced Air Force to punt the ball for the first time, USU got the ball back down 21-7 and were putting together a favorable drive. Facing fourth and four from the 29 yard-line, they went for it, but the play blew up, resulted in a turnover on downs.

11 played and 71 yards later, AFA was in the endzone, terminating any aspirations for an Aggie comeback and extending their lead to 28-7 with 4:43 left in the third quarter. After that drive, the USU offense did little, ending drives with a punt, an interception, and a turnover on downs. The Aggies finished the game with a humble 123 passing yards and 109 rushing yards.

“It was a lack of execution,” said Maile about the offense struggles. “Everybody plays a part in that offensively, and so the bottom line is we didn't execute the way we needed to, and we gave those guys opportunities to get back on the football field, and we played the price for it.”

After yet another blowout loss on this forgettable 2020 season, the 1-5 Aggies now focus on their final game of the season next Saturday at Colorado State.

“We need to get better as a unit and finish out the season strong,” said Nathan. “We need to come to practice prepared, in order to do the right things to win. We are a tough unit, but we are a young unit, so you know when everything going bad you see finger-pointing you see heads down and you can't have that.”

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PHOTO COURTESY of Eli Lucero

Women's hoops falls short to Seattle in OT road game

By Jaden Johnson
VIA USU ATHLETICS

SEATTLE, Wash. — Utah State women's basketball (1-2, 0-0 MW) lost a tightly-contested overtime contest, 75-72, to Seattle U (1-2, 0-0 WAC) on Thursday afternoon inside Redhawk Center in Seattle, Wash.

Utah State held a 67-62 advantage with 24 seconds remaining in regulation, but two timely 3-pointers down the stretch evened things up for Seattle. USU had possession of the ball and a tie game with 11 seconds to go, but a corner 3-pointer from sophomore guard Faith Brantley fell just short to send the game to overtime.

The Aggies started strong in overtime, putting the first four points on the board, but the Redbirds finished the overtime period on a 7-0 run to earn the win.

USU's game was highlighted by career-high performances in both points and rebounds by sophomore guard Kamalu Kamakawiwo'ole, who recorded her first-career double-double in what was her second-career start. Graduate guard/forward Jessica Chatman led the team in scoring with 18 points, while also tying a career-high with 13 rebounds in 42 minutes.

Seattle U was led by junior guard Courtney Murphy, who finished with 15 points.

As a team, Utah State shot 32.9 percent (25-of-76) from the field, 16.1 percent (5-of-31) from 3-point range and 60.7 percent (17-of-28) from the free throw line. Seattle U shot 25.9 percent (21-of-81) from the field, while shooting 34.s percent (8-of-33) from the



PHOTO COURTESY of Wade Denniston/USU Athletics

3-point line and 78.1 percent (25-of-32) from the charity stripe.

Next up, the Aggies return home. to take on BYU (1-1,

0-0 WCC) on Monday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., inside the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Links to live stats and streaming for the game will be available on utahstateaggies.com.

Three USU football players earn player of the week honors

By Jason Walker
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Just a couple weeks ago, Aggie football fans might have been content with a single player of the week accolade for one of its gridiron players. But this week Utah State didn't see just one, nor merely two awards, but all three Mountain West Player of the Week awards spanning offense, defense and special teams. Quarterback Andrew Peasley, outside linebacker Nick Heninger and kicker Connor Coles were the respective winners of the weekly conference awards for their efforts in downing New Mexico 41-27 for the Aggies' first win of the season.

For each of the three players, it's the first time they've won one of these weekly awards.

Peasley headlined USU's blowout of the Lobos, passing for a career-high 239 yards on 14 of 21 passing in his first

start. The redshirt sophomore accounted for four total touchdowns, three through the air and one rushing score — a 62-yard scramble that sealed the game. Overall on the ground, Peasley had 118 yards, becoming just the fifth Aggie QB to cross the century mark on the ground and the first since Kent Myers' 191 yards in 2015. The other three are Chuckie Keeton (2012), Diondre Borel (2009) and Tony Adams (1972). Peasley is the only one of the five to toss three TD passes along with the 100 yards rushing.

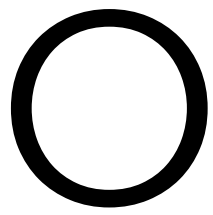
Heninger, the only senior among the Aggies' award-winners, tied his career high with eight tackles which included career-high-tying totals in tackles for loss (3.0) and sacks (2.0). He also forced two fumbles (a single-game career best), one of which was returned 16 yards for a touchdown by teammate Kina Maile to cap off a 28-point

third quarter by USU. For the season, Heninger leads the team in tackles for loss with 7.0 and tied for first in sacks with 3.0 alongside linebacker A.J. Vongphachanh. Heninger is third on the team in total tackles at 28.

Coles, the junior kicker, hit a career-long 44-yard field goal as part of 11 total points scored (also a career-high). Overall he went 2 for 2 on field goal attempts, adding a 27-yarder to his 44-yard kick. Coles also went 5 for 5 on PATs in the game. Thursday was the first time Coles has ever attempted multiple field goal attempts in a game for Utah State and the first time he made multiple PATs in a single contest.

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OPINION

Christmas in 2020

What do the holidays hold for us now?



It's hard to believe that 2020 is coming to an end. Families worldwide are looking forward to the holidays, although there is no question that it will be a time of heartache and loneliness for many. Over 200,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 so far. That fact — along with everything else this year has had in store for us — has resulted in extreme physical and mental fatigue for many.

Public health experts' recommendations have been difficult to follow. Most of us have been tempted to attend celebrations, special occasions, or any sort of get-together at one time or another. With the holidays in full swing, that temptation has grown tenfold.

Whether Americans choose to social distance during the holidays or not, one thing is certain: It will be a different Christmas. As Natasha Hinde writes, "the Christmas tunes are playing, the turkey's in the oven — but this year, your house isn't filled with loads of people. In 2020, December 25 is likely to be a quieter affair."

And that's ok.

According to a survey conducted by Accenture, 40% of Americans said they were "not looking forward to the holiday season due to COVID-19" and 35% said they were "not looking forward to the holiday season for other reasons, such as grieving a loved one or being apart from family and friends." With morale at an all-time low, the primary focus of this Christmas should be to help those around us who are struggling.

Visiting family and neighbors who are lonely might not be possible in person, but sending a letter letting them know that you are thinking of them will surely lighten their day. It may seem simple, but just checking up on someone can ease your own anxieties as well.

A big misconception is that any activity outside the home contributes to the spread of the virus and that indefinitely isolating oneself is a good thing. This kind of thinking is, quite frankly, harmful.

While it is crucial to follow the guidelines that health officials have laid out, there is a dire need for communities to take action to combat food insecurity.

Self-isolation and social distancing are making it even more difficult for food to be distributed to those in need. The sad truth is that more than 50 million Americans may face hunger by the end of the year.

In Utah, hunger is a bigger problem than one might think. The Feeding America organization estimates that out of the 347,370 people that are struggling with hunger in our state, 113,190 are children. The food insecurity

rate for children in Cache County alone is expected to jump from 11.9% in 2018 to 13.9% by the end of 2020.

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to help those less fortunate? Creating or participating in local food drives is a perfect opportunity to do just that. The Cache Community Food Pantry is always accepting food donations and looking for volunteers. Money donations are also accepted through their website.

Currently, one-third of USU students at the Logan campus are unable to obtain a sufficient amount of food. Our very own on-campus food pantry has been fighting to change that.

The Student Nutrition Access Center (known as SNAC) provides canned food, bread, and fresh produce to anyone at Utah State that may struggle financially, or simply cannot afford healthy options for food. SNAC has continued to aid students and staff through the pandemic and now offers contactless order-and-pick up.

Last year I had the opportunity to spend a few months as a volunteer for a food bank. Watching the faces of parents light up as they gathered food for their children was an experience I will never forget. The busiest time was during the Christmas season. I can only imagine how local food banks are handling the demand now.

While there may be fewer carolers and concerts this Christmas, these unanticipated circumstances offer us the chance to start new traditions with family and friends, while also tackling the issue of food insecurity.

More than anything, Americans want a meaningful Christmas. With many families unable to gather this year, there has been increased empathy from friends, neighbors, and strangers alike. You don't need to look far to find opportunities to help others. If we do our part to combat hunger in Logan, I have no doubt this Christmas will be a special one.

Brayden Rigby is a sophomore studying Journalism. He enjoys writing of any kind, and spends most of his free time running and swimming.

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The food insecurity rate for children in Cache County alone is expected to jump from 11.9% in 2018 to 13.9% by the end of 2020.

FSRS to be held virtually



This photo shows the 2019 FSRS. This year's event will be held online.

PHOTO FROM Utah State Today

On Thursday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m., the Utah State University Office of Research will host the Fall Student Research Symposium (FSRS), marking the first time the annual symposium will be held virtually. The Office of Research is excited to produce the event that provides a platform for undergraduate researchers and creative artists to showcase their work, receive feedback from qualified judges and gain experience in presenting in an academic setting. The event is free and open to the public, and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Since the founding of Utah State University, undergraduate research has been an important part of its land-grant mission. Over the years, numerous programs have been developed to offer all students a chance to find, fund and present research and creative work that they care about. FSRS is an annual symposium developed to provide students a chance to share their accomplishments at the end of the fall semester, especially seniors graduating in December.

“In founding this event, I wanted to give undergraduates a meaningful opportunity to share their research to a campus-wide audience of scholars,” said Travis Dorsch of Kinesiology and Health Studies, the founder of the event.

Featuring just thirteen students at its inception in 2013, FSRS has grown steadily and this year's event will feature over 100 students from every college, most of whom are first-time presenters. In 2018, graduate student judges were added to the event, offering feedback to students and making the event a useful training tool to help prepare presenters to go on to bigger events like the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or professional conferences in their disciplines.

“Nothing can compare for a student to be able to share research and engage with audience members in one-on-one discussions about their work,” said Joyce Kinkead of the English Department, who has written extensively about how to mentor research in the humanities.

As FSRS has grown, it has brought together students in diverse fields to share work with each other and the broader community. Presenting at events like FSRS or its larger counterpart in the spring—the Student Research Symposium, part of Research Week—allows these students to become a part of that community through their meaningful contributions to our collective knowledge.

Of course, since this is no ordinary year, the Office of Research has prepared a way for students to continue to

gain the benefits of presenting their work while remaining safe. The spring 2020 event was the first all-virtual student symposium at USU, and the organizers took lessons learned there to design an online experience for the students that will offer the same benefits as traditional in-person events.

FSRS will take place entirely within a new platform by developer ForagerOne, aptly named Symposium. Though virtual presentations offer some challenges, the shift has been well received and much anticipated.

Caine College of the Arts faculty Laura Gelfand, who is requiring students in her Honors course, Dogs in Art, to present at FSRS, said, “At a time when students and faculty are all struggling to make connections with other people, the FSRS offers students a chance to recognize that they are part of something larger, and that there is value in what they do.”

Though the benefit to students presenting at FSRS is clear, the Office of Research hopes that others will see the benefit in attending.

“With an online event, the opportunity to bring FSRS to a broader audience is really exciting,” Alexa Sand, the associate vice president for research running the event, said. “We can be more inclusive than ever for our State-wide campus and online students, and these students can reach more of the public on Symposium than they could with an on-campus event. We hope it will draw a large audience and illustrates to other students that research is a rewarding way to deepen their learning and get more out of their education.”

The event is a blend of pre-recorded presentation videos (mimicking an in-person poster session) and live video conference sessions where students will share slides (oral presentations). Anyone can see the event, view the posters and videos or join a video session to hear from students and ask questions. Those who choose to set up a free account on the platform can also comment on individual students' posters or slides and engage with the students directly.

To learn more, attend FSRS 2020, and support student researchers, visit the FSRS Website. When the event starts at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, the platform will become available and the link will be posted to the website.

This article was written by Amelia Ashby and appeared in Utah State Today.

“Funeral” FROM PAGE 3

service were “normal.” At the beginning, Reece’s siblings, parents and girlfriend spoke and shared stories. His uncle performed a song on the guitar.

“All the memories shared were so beautiful,” Mattinson said. “It was the perfect balance of laughs and tears. He was a hilarious person so it felt right to have funny stories shared.”

...

Untraditional as they seem, these funerals felt right to the people who attended them. The COVID-19 pandemic has indirectly allowed people to grieve in different, but seemingly better ways.

The pandemic has changed the way we learn, work and interact, and some of those changes could be permanent. Maybe the way we grieve will be changed forever too.

After all, under normal circumstances, Rob’s funeral would’ve been inside some stuffy church that he didn’t even attend.

Instead, he got his funeral outside in the place he loved most: God’s country.

And it was better that way.

—karcinrose@gmail.com

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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

After the year we've had, can we have a six-month holiday?

Sudoku puzzles are provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com.

Sudoku
OF THE DAY



CALENDAR

DEC 7 - DEC 12

MONDAY

12/7

**2020 Parade of
Gingerbread Homes
Contest**

Dec. 5-31
Businesses in
Downtown Logan

**Faith Challenges
Support Group**

2:30 p.m.
CAPS
Zoom Meeting
ID: 837 3352 8590
Passcode: 836612

**Fantasy at the Bay
Christmas Lights**

Nov. 27-Dec. 30
5-10 p.m.
Willard Bay State Park
900 W 650 N
Willard, UT

Jingle Jacks

7:30 p.m.
Heritage Theatre
2505 S Highway 89
Perry, UT

TUESDAY

12/8

Virtual Bootcamp

5:30 p.m.
Virtual Class
virtualrec.usu.edu

Virtual Vinyasa Yoga

7:30 p.m.
Virtual Class
virtualrec.usu.edu

Virtual Barre Fitness

8:30 p.m.
Virtual Class
virtualrec.usu.edu

WEDNESDAY

12/9

Virtual HIGH Fitness

8 a.m.
Virtual Class
virtualrec.usu.edu

Virtual Disney Trivia

8:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
virtualrec.usu.edu

**Houseplant 101:
Holiday Edition**

6 p.m.
Freckle Farm
3915 N Highway 91
Hyde Park, UT

**Make Time to Unwind
Destressing Event**

6:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
tinyurl.com/y5lnotuk

**Christmas at the Idle
Isle**

7:30 p.m.
Ellen Eccles Theatre
43 S Main St.
Logan, UT

THURSDAY

12/10

ARC Holiday Festivities

10 a.m.
ARC and HPER
Logan, UT

**Intuitive Eating
Workshop**

5:30 p.m.
virtualrec.usu.edu

Zootah Zoo Lights

Dec. 10-12
4:30-8 p.m.
Zootah at Willow Park
419 W 700 S
Logan, UT

FRIDAY

12/11

Forgotten Carols

5 p.m.
Worm House Opera
bit.ly/39pc5tS

**Morgan Farm Nativity
Benefit**

5:30 p.m.
Nibley-Morgan Farm
2726 S 800 W
Nibley, UT

**Cache Valley Good
Times Marching Band**

7:30 p.m.
Ellen Eccles Theatre
43 S Main St.
Logan, UT

Jingle Jacks

7:30 p.m.
Heritage Theatre
2505 S Highway 89
Perry, UT

SATURDAY

12/12

Sip-N-Shop

10 a.m.
Greenleaf Gourds &
Greenhouse
48 W Center St
Providence, UT

Forgotten Carols

5 p.m.
Worm House Opera
70 S State St
Preston, ID

**Morgan Farm Nativity
Benefit**

5:30 p.m.
Nibley-Morgan Farm
2726 S 800 W
Nibley, UT

**Logan High School
Presents**

7:30 p.m.
Ellen Eccles Theatre
43 S Main St.
Logan, UT

Jingle Jacks

7:30 p.m.
Heritage Theatre
2505 S Highway 89
Perry, UT

ADD YOUR EVENT AT USUSTATESMAN.COM/EVENTS

Deadline for calendar submissions is Thursday at midnight.