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USU's biggest party of the year returns: **The Howl**

By Jared Adams
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Howl, Utah State University's annual Halloween event and one of the largest Halloween parties in the state, is returning on Oct. 29.

This year's event will have a dance, laser tag, archery tag, virtual reality, a hypnotist, a comedian, fortune tellers, airbrush tattoos, karaoke and a photo booth.

Colton Fetzer, the activities director for the Utah State University Student Association, is excited about the event.

"Everyone knows about the dance in the fieldhouse," Fetzer said. "But what a lot of people don't realize is that there's more than just the dance."

Fetzer said students can also look forward to different activities and entertainment in the Taggart Student Center.

"All the different lounges will have something, and the ballroom will have something," he said.

"There will be a lot of things for people who don't necessarily want to go to just the dance. It'll be an amazing time."

While Fetzer wants to keep a lot of the event a mystery, he said he's looking forward to having not only a photo booth, but also having a slow-motion video booth, which he described as a fun twist on a normal experience.

The theme for the Howl this year is "What Lies Below," a committee chosen theme, to reference the tunnels below USU's Logan campus.

"The theme is centered around the students that are leading a research project," Fetzer said. "They are trying to figure out what USU is hiding in the tunnels underneath campus. They run all over and they're sort of a mysterious place that students don't know about."

Students can also expect the Howl to be a very different experience than it was in 2020.



STATESMAN FILE

Howl attendees in 2018 smile for the camera.

Rather than having the one-night party like what is typically seen, the Howl in 2020 was composed of a week of Halloween themed activities, such as the Aggie Howl, a drive-through haunted house, a virtual costume contest, a Halloween Scotsman's Quest and a drive-in horror movie.

Gracie Shippen is in her second year as a USUSA activ-

ities committee member and helped plan and orchestrate the event in 2020.

"I am so excited for the students to be able to attend a true Howl event," Shippen said. "I'm also excited that we, as students, are able to experience it together."

While events have returned to USU, the coronavirus was still considered when planning the 2021 Howl. The event this year will only be open to USU students, with tickets only being available with a student ID in the TSC card office.

Any student who resells tickets to a non-USU student will be subject to action from the USU Office of Student Conduct.

In addition, masks covering the mouth and nose are permitted and encouraged, but full head masks are not allowed. There will also be space to maintain social distancing.

Outside of those coronavirus restrictions, the event will be comparable to what was seen before the pandemic. Fetzer is excited to reintroduce the Howl to students who didn't get to experience it in 2020.

"The event will be different from previous years in some ways," Fetzer said. "One big thing is our emphasis on consent throughout the event. We are really working with SAAVI and the Title IX office to create a safer environment for students at the Howl."

SAAVI, or the Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information Office, is an on-campus organization that provides counseling, advocacy and information to university members.

Sexual violence is typically a concern at the Howl. According to the Herald Journal, three sexual assaults were reported at the event in 2019.

Aubrey Hampton, a junior at USU, attended the Howl in 2019. She reflected on her and her friends' safety leading up to the event.

"We had a system set up beforehand," Hampton said. "If we didn't hear from them at a certain time, we would contact friends and the police. We also stay in bigger groups."

Hampton also said that while she's excited for the Howl, she will be taking similar precautions this year, especially considering what happened in 2019.

Felicia Gallegos is the outreach and prevention coordinator with the SAAVI office. Her office has worked with the USUSA activities committee and USU to help ensure a safe Howl.

"The university takes several precautions each year in hopes of preventing sexual misconduct from occurring at the Howl," Gallegos said. "First, the hiring of police officers and security, who are trained to monitor the event. Second, USUSA recruited nearly 100 volunteers. They receive an upstander bystander intervention training designed specifically for the Howl from SAAVI and the Office of Equity."

Gallegos and Fetzer both also mentioned marketing tools to raise awareness about consent and sexual misconduct behaviors. There will be large banners and announcements regarding consent and flyers in every bathroom stall and urinal and information about how to report behavior.

Additionally, a SAAVI advocate will be available at



STATESMAN FILE

The DJ hypes up the crowd at the Howl event in 2018.

the event. Any student who feels unsafe is encouraged to notify a police officer, security member or volunteer that they would like to speak to an advocate.

"The Howl is an incredibly safe event because so many individuals are present who are trained to recognize and stop sexual misconduct," Gallegos said. "It is very common for us to call attention to the Howl, but I encourage everyone to be alert and aware at any festivity you attend this Halloween season."

USUSA and SAAVI also want to remind students about the definition of consent prior to the event.

"Consent is an agreement to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way," Gallegos said. "Sexual activity without consent is sexual assault. Costume is not consent. No groping or grinding at the Howl without consent."

Howl tickets are available for \$15.00 with a student ID and cannot be purchased online.

More information on upcoming USU events can be found by following @ususaevents on Instagram.



Jared Adams is a sophomore at USU studying communications. Outside of news writing, Jared enjoys coffee, elephants, rainy days and Taylor Swift.

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Logan holds annual historic ghost tours in light of the Halloween spirit

By Brielle Carr
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Every Friday and Saturday night in October, the Logan Downtown Alliance holds ghost tours in Logan. David Sidwell, a local drama director, teamed up with the alliance to bring to light infamous stories of ghosts and spirits in the community. The alliance said they work to preserve the commerce of Logan and strengthen businesses.

The tour is a family-friendly event and usually runs about two hours. The tour begins at the Bullen Center Carousel Ballroom, located at 43rd S. Main Street, or the Caine Lyric Theater on 28th W. Center Street depending on the night, and the tour guides lead the participants from there.

Lauren Shanley is a tour guide — or storyteller as they like to say — and has been since the tours opened. Shanley told the story of George W. Lindquist who, in 1913, was operating an embalming parlor and funeral service in the basement of a building that we now know as Stacked, a pancake restaurant on Main Street.

When Lindquist was out of town, his daughter, Paula, would run the funeral service in his stead.

“She was a kind woman. Little. Small,” Shanley said. “She loved the dead as much



PHOTO BY Jared Craig

Attendees are led through downtown Logan during the Logan historic ghost tour.

as she loved the living.”

While embalming a body on her own for the first time, Paula saw a large black cat with one white paw and a splash of white on its tail just outside the basement window.

Paula let the cat in and — with a combination of hissing, scratching and purring — the cat lead Paula through the embalming process.

Many years later, Paula died and the large black cat with a white paw, who they named Anubis, passed away shortly after in the basement. Shanley explained that people still say they can hear the scratching and hissing of Anubis, while others have seen the ghost of the cat stalking around downtown Logan.

Stacked is not the only building on Main Street where paranormal activity has lingered. A ghost named Emma roams the Ellen Eccles Theatre.

Emma was an actress in her family act known as the Mighty Millers. This was a time, in the mid 1920s, when traveling vaudeville shows were the most popular form of entertainment.

The Mighty Millers were known to put on a great show, but eight-year-old Emma could never get her one line right. As the story goes, one evening after messing up her line once again, Emma made a pact with herself that it would be the last time she was going to mess up that line.

The theater her family traveled to next

was the Ellen Eccles Theatre in Logan. It was a chilly day in Logan and therefore Emma decided to practice her line in the warm and cozy boiler room.

The door slammed. Someone or something locked the door. Gas hissed into the room. No one could hear Emma’s cries. No one could hear her banging on the door. Her family found her lifeless the next day.

Ben Dawson, the facilities manager at the Ellen Eccles Theatre, has heard of the spine-chilling stories of little Emma haunting the theater.

“I’ve heard of multiple sightings of Emma, how she likes to play and have fun here,” Dawson said. “How she’ll watch people perform, and sometimes she’ll dance on stage”.

Read the rest of this story
at usustatesman.com.



Brielle Carr is a first year student studying journalism. She loves to read and spend a lot of her time at the gym.

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PHOTO BY Jared Craig

Storyteller Lauren Shanley dresses up to lead the ghost tour.

Bigfoot sightings spike in Northern Utah

By Clarissa Casper
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

For years, Bigfoot believers in Cache Valley say they have felt alone in their experiences. But the coronavirus pandemic — and a Facebook group — has brought together these people with unusual encounters.

Jon Marshall — the author of “Cache Valley Bigfoot” and a founder of the Facebook group of the same name — said he has received an increased number of messages and posts to the group this fall.

They all have one big, hairy thing in common. And it’s not just Bigfoot.

“I know people were always up in the mountains at that time,” Marshall said. “I have lots of friends who were always camping or hiking around that time. So, the more people out there, the more chance there will be sightings and experiences.”

The “hot spots” for these recent sightings are the White Pine and Tony Grove campsites, according to Marshall. The majority of those who have had encounters at these places have had very similar experiences.

“This certain one likes to throw rocks or other things,” Marshall said. “He’ll never hit them, but he throws softball-sized or bigger rocks toward them.”

Marshall’s Facebook group, established in 2020, has helped witnesses of this “sasquatch” feel less alone in their experiences.

“Ninety percent of the people that have joined my page in the past two months have seen it,” Marshall said. “They have had an experience, or they have heard firsthand from someone that has had an experience.”

Utah State University wildlife specialist Nicki Frey said the spike in sightings has piqued her curiosity — though she said a bear is the likely cause for these encounters.

“They are surprisingly humanistic,” Frey said of the black bears that sometimes roam Utah’s wilderness. “Especially when you combine their behavior with a human imagination fueled by fear that is already suspicious that there might be a Bigfoot.”

It is very likely there is a bear den in these Bigfoot hot spots. Frey said a bear’s protective nature and their wish to stay hidden might be the cause of these encounters and sightings.

Though this may be a likely answer, Frey is not dismissing the sightings.

“Maybe they are seeing something unique — one never knows,” Frey said. “Animals are adapting to humans in novel ways all the time.”

Frey likes that people are documenting new behavior — for whatever it is they are encountering.

“The scientist in me wants footprints, scat and hair samples, though,” Frey said, laughing. “Or a photo at the very least.”



GRAPHIC BY Jillian Poll



Clarissa Casper is a sophomore studying journalism and aquatic science at Utah State University. Outside of writing for the Statesman, she loves to hike, write poetry and watch whales.

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A nonfiction Fright Night

By Malorie Ellefson
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

Who doesn't love free food and a good scary story? Well, the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta have come together to put on an event with that and more. The event is called Fright Night. It's happening Oct. 27 and everyone is invited.

"Fright Night has been going on for years and it's our biggest event," said Michaella Whitney, the president of Phi Alpha Theta, which is the history honor society for undergraduate and graduate students.

This society offers the opportunity for history students to share their research and participate in the exchange of learning and ideas both regionally and nationally. This group of students are able to present their historical research for their region, creating fun experiences and being able to travel to other states to participate.

Not only that, but Phi Alpha Theta puts on various activities, with a historic twist of course. But Fright Night is by far their most popular activity.

"We gather all sorts of people from the history department — faculty and staff included — and we feed everyone and we have candy," Whitney said. "We share spooky stories that are historically accurate and it gives us a glimpse of what Halloween time looked like in history."

The students and faculty said they work hard to have good food and thrilling stories to share with the people that attend this activity.

"I'm excited because it's going to be in person this year.

Last year it was over Zoom and it was still fun," Whitney said. "But there's something about the atmosphere with these stories. When they're told in person you get to feel it. You get to see it and you get to hear it and think about how crazy it is that these stories actually happened in history. To



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY Bailey Rigby

share that with a community of history students and others. It's something else."

The stories will be presented by various history professors and students and will be held in Old Main in Room 115 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. They will be serving pizza outside before the event and handing out candy after the activity to follow coronavirus guidelines.

"We're also having a Halloween costume contest," Whitney said. "We highly encourage our attendees to come dressed up in their Halloween costumes. We will be giving out prizes for the best dressed, most movie accurate and fan favorite."

So if you'd like to enjoy a night of free food, cool costumes, scary stories and candy, come to Old Main on Oct. 27 to participate in this fun and unique event put on by the history department and Phi Alpha Theta.

For those who may not be able to attend in person or who may not be comfortable, there is a Zoom link available when you search Fright Night in the USU events calendar.



Malorie Ellefson is in her first year of studying English and working at USU Student Media. Outside of writing for The Statesman, she loves watching all types of movies, going to local plays and writing novels.

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Preventing your carved creation from becoming a fungal fiasco

By Nick Volesky
USU TODAY

Carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns is an art form that comes in all shapes, sizes and levels of difficulty. The final product (usually) makes the pumpkin carvers proud and anxious to display their work. However, often just a few days later, the pumpkin creation may start to wither and rot, and eventually, mold will take over. Why does this happen?

When you carve a pumpkin, it exposes the insides, making it more susceptible to infection through air flow. The environment (temperature, sunlight, etc.) can also be a factor in the pumpkin's quality.

Molds are a fungal micro-organism that have the potential to live everywhere. These fungi release tiny, lightweight spores that allow them to travel through the air. They can then infect and cause carved pumpkins to shrivel, soften

and start to grow fuzzy, grey mold. Some common interior molds include Cladosporium, Penicillium, Aspergillus and Alternaria.

Consider these methods to help preserve your carved pumpkin:

- Thoroughly wash your pumpkin before cutting into it.
- Sterilize spoons, knives or other carving tools before use, especially between pumpkin carving.
- Remove all the pumpkin's insides to reduce the surface area where potential fungi can grow.
- Dip, wash or spray your finished carving with a 10 percent bleach solution. This will kill any microorganisms on your pumpkin.
- Rub the cut areas with petroleum jelly, which helps lock in the moisture and slow the drying process.
- Consider using an electric light or glow stick instead of a candle. This will prevent the gourd from "cooking" and spoiling faster.





PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY Bailey Rigby

Spookiest places in Logan

By Sage Souza
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

If haunted houses are your thing, look no further than the Logan Outlet after the sun sets. The flickering fluorescent lights and lack of hope in the eyes of the customers and cashiers alike will haunt your memory until the day you die. There is no sun, no joy, no future. Just you and them in an aisle of maybe slightly smushed protein bars.

Prefer jump scares? Try the Merrill-Cazier Library at midnight. You'll only see zombified members of the student body quietly groaning and grunting to themselves. You're more than likely to see at least one of them shuffling silently through the stacks. But be careful! Distracting them from their midnight deadline will be sure to send them into a manic frenzy.

Gossner Foods is also a fantastic location for some up-close-and-personal real-life portable horror you can take right along home with you! (Author's note: I'm lactose intolerant and there's something about the Gossner's flavored milks that tastes like what fourth grade felt like. I am my own stupid teenage girl in the horror movie that is

my digestive tract. Sent into the terror tube. Never looked back. All this to say you'll probably be fine.)

If you love the squeamish squelching of blood and gore, the Huntsman School of Business is the place for you. There's nothing like the cutthroat culture of capitalistic competition. plus, there's always the added twist of statistically educating more psycho- and sociopaths than any other career field. Welcome to the rat race.

Frankenstein, Dracula, the Creature from the Black Lagoon — if this sounds like your dream blunt rotation, pay a visit to Zootah at Willow Park. Bypass the sheer squeezable adorableness of the muntjac deer to stare into the forbidding eyes of the lemurs. The real-life Eye of Sauron. Why are they red? What have they seen? How do they seem to see right through me?

If you're more into psychological horror, take a stroll to literally any of the dorms on campus. The cult-like rituals of the new freshman aiming to be even more obnoxious than the freshman before, in addition to the stench of the absolute recklessness of youth, poor decision making, predatory dating culture, plus the defeated stress of upperclassman and RAs offers horrifying scenes more terrible than your worst nightmares.

A drive up Logan Canyon is sure to embarrass any observer to a terrorizing level. See if you can spot the numerous first dates between Mutual users (specifically look for boys who promised to "go on an adventure" and girls who look like they desperately wish they were literally anywhere else). As a treat, see you if you can catch anybody scream-singing angrily with tears streaming down their cheeks because their roommates are driving them absolute bat-friggin-bonkers-crazy.

Anyplace full of depressed and sexually-depraved young adults allowed out on their own for the first time is sure to be fraught with horrors. You just have to know where to look. And in the words of Phineas and Ferb: one little scare ought to do you some good.



Sage Souza is a senior studying political science and Spanish. In her free time, she enjoys long walks on the beach, making too many playlists on Spotify, and retweeting Karl Marx fancams.

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The man, the myth, the record-holder

Vegas native ties NCAA record with seventh kickoff return touchdown

By Jacee Caldwell
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

You may know him as the senior wide receiver for Utah State Football wearing No. 11. Or you know him as the back-to-back Mountain West Football Special Teams Player of the Year. Or you even may know him for his seven kickoff return touchdowns, which has made him the most recent player to hold the NCAA record for most career kickoff return touchdowns.

However you may recognize the name, Savon Scarver is a player to remember.

Scarver, who is originally from Las Vegas, currently holds the record for most kickoff returns for touchdowns in USU history and is now tied for the most in NCAA history after the Oct. 16 game against UNLV, where he ran for a 100-yard kickoff return in the first quarter of the game.

Once it happened, it wasn't a huge surprise for USU head football coach Blake Anderson. Anderson said he could feel it coming and even told Scarver it was going to happen.

Senior Aggie receiver Deven Thompkins — a close friend of Scarver and lead blocker on the record-tying return — knew it was going to happen on Saturday night.

"I knew it," Thompkins said. "He earned it. He stayed down for a long time. He's been here longer than me, so he really worked hard for this, and he deserves everything that comes with it."

As for Scarver, it was definitely a shining moment for him. After a frustrating season last year with no kickoff return touchdowns, he was finally able to see his hard work pay off.

"It just really comes down to taking the opportunity when it presents itself," Scarver said. "I've been patiently waiting. I was getting really frustrated but I always tell myself, 'relax, stay patient, it'll come.' So, it presented itself today, and I'm happy with the outcome."

Overall, Scarver has now scored four kickoff return touchdowns for 100 yards, one for 99 yards, one for 96 yards and 94 yards each.

And this wasn't the first time Scarver has scored against UNLV. His very first career kickoff return touchdown was against Rebels back in 2017 at the Sam Boyd Stadium.

As of press time, Scarver is only one kickoff return touchdown away from breaking the record and being the standalone NCAA leader.

The other four players currently tied with Scarver for the record include Rashaad Penny, a current NFL running back for the Seattle Seahawks, CJ Spiller, the current running backs coach for Clemson University, Tyron Carrier, current assistant head coach and wide receivers coach at University of Houston, and Tony Pollard, a current NFL running back for the Dallas Cowboys.

Coach Anderson has no doubt Scarver will break this record if other teams let him get his hands on the ball.



PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby

Savon Scarver during his game against UNLV on Oct. 16, where he tied the record for most kickoff returns for a touchdown in NCAA history.

However, he said opposing teams are doing a great job of avoiding kicking it to him.

"I'd like to see people get the ball to him, and that's something we talked about offensively is trying to create those opportunities as well," Anderson said. "I'm hoping that some of the kickers in the near future are going to have to kick to him and give him the opportunity to show what he's capable of."

Which is something Scarver clearly did on Saturday. Once he had gotten his hands on the ball, UNLV made sure not to make that mistake again.

However, Anderson also said Scarver isn't careless either. He knows when it's risky to run the ball, and he'll make the right decision. And although Scarver believes he will surpass the other four players who are currently tied with him for the title, the records aren't necessarily something he's constantly focused on.

"It's not really me striving to break records, it's me just striving to fulfill my goals, and really, my goals are to just be the best I can be at whatever role I'm in," Scarver said. "Whether that be receiver, kick return, punt return, kickoff, any position I'm in I want to be the best at it."

According to his friends and family, he really is the best at everything. His sister Ashlee Burks and his mom Celeste Brown both talked about how he's an all-around athlete who started out playing basketball and even had scholarship offers from colleges for track. However, football has always been his passion.

His good family friend Debbie Edwards said that even through it all, no matter what records he breaks or how big he gets, he continues to remain humble.

"He's very much a team player," Edwards said. "He's worried about his teammates. It's not all about his records. It's not all about him furthering himself. It's making his team better. The humility he has and not letting things go to his head is just aweing to me."

But it's no question Scarver is a valuable player. Even Wyoming head coach Craig Bohl told KSL Sports that he's a player every team should be watching for.

"Scary. He's a weapon," Bohl said. You try to minimize or mitigate his exposure, and it just kind of backfires. He's a lot to handle. He can flip a game wide open."

Although Scarver's record touchdown was definitely one of the highlights of the win over UNLV, he can also celebrate with his team over USU's last-second 28-24 victory.

And it all happened in the new NFL stadium for the Las Vegas Raiders, Allegiant Stadium. For Scarver this was something he was looking forward to, considering he remembers seeing the stadium being built the last time he was home.

However, Scarver explained that no matter where the team plays, he's there to play good football, and that's always going to be his focus.

"The grass and the lines are the same everywhere," he said. "I can play anywhere. I can play outside if it had lines, it doesn't matter, it's just another field to me."

Although Scarver was there for football on just another field, it still meant the world to him to be able to play in his hometown with all his friends and family in the stands there to cheer him on.

"This team is my family, but having my real family there and my real friends there — that's going to mean everything to me," Scarver said. "I'm going to play my best game and show out for my teammates and my family."

It was also special for his family, his biggest supporters, who were so happy to be in the stands watching him play.

"It means a great deal to me and the family," said Tracy Brown, Scarver's dad. "I know it's been a long time coming for him."



The family of Savon Scarver poses for a photo before his Oct. 16 game against UNLV.

and it's been that way since he started playing at age four. He explained he's either at practice, watching film, lifting weights or training every single day of the week, except Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Even coach Anderson can see his hard work and dedication paying off.

"The guy can cut loose," Anderson said. "He has unbelievable vision. He sees holes that other people don't see. He doesn't need a lot of space. He can fly. Obviously he's got great speed to break. He has this anticipation and courage that a lot of people don't have for kick returns. That's not a job that everybody is comfortable in, and he is very comfortable."

With his talents, hard work ethic and determination, Scarver hopes he can achieve his lifelong goal of playing in the NFL.

"My first time that I saw the Seahawks on the TV, I was like 'dang, I wanna do that,'" he said. "And I feel like it's getting closer and closer, and I'm still focused on the now, but that's what I want to do."

In the meantime, Scarver will focus on being a good teammate and person. Thompkins knows the type of person he is on and off the field.

"He plays his role. You can talk about how he's an All-American kick returner and everything to that nature, but honestly he's a great dude," Thompkins said. "He embraces anyone and everybody that's new to the team. For example, when I first got here he actually hosted me on my visit and my freshman year he was like my big brother. He's someone that you can talk to no matter what."

Celeste Brown also mentioned Savon's good heart and amazing qualities both on and off the field and that he has always stayed true to himself.

"We've taught him what God has for you is for you always and to keep that and your faith first, and he's done that," Brown said.

Scarver shows his humility by stating he knows it's not just all about him. He's got a whole group of guys contributing to his greatness and his achievements.

Scarver came up with a long list of those who have contributed to his success over the years and feels grateful to have so many people in his life who support him.

"It's a lot of guys and coaches that I credit my success to," he said. "Ever since I came up here, everybody has been helping me form my greatest strengths. Everybody has played a role in me getting to the point where I am now. It feels good to have people around me that actually care and want to see me be great."

Celeste Brown is definitely one of those people in Scarver's life. She's grateful to be a part of his football journey, for his opportunity to be at USU and to watch her son run down the entire field into the endzone.

"We're just very proud," she said. "We're proud to be in this moment and here to watch him and celebrate this moment with him."

Scarver also shared that having the opportunity to be back in Vegas this past weekend brought up a lot of great memories for him, including one of his favorites; winning an NYFL football tournament — the Pigskin tournament — as a kid with his cousin and getting to take home a trophy.

But that wasn't the only accomplishment he's had in his career.

Additional awards Scarver has received include Walter Camp First-Team All-American in 2018, Phil Steele Magazine First-Team All-American in 2018, Johnny "The Jet" Award Winner in 2018, First-Team All-Mountain West in both 2018 and 2019, and Honorable Mention All-Mountain West in 2020, along with many other honors.

The awards are nice, but they don't make Scarver complacent. He is constantly working towards improving each day.

Scarver said his whole life revolves around football,

PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby

Statesman hosts candidate town hall

By Jared Adams
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Utah State University hosted a Logan municipal candidate town hall meeting on Oct. 20, prior to the election on Nov. 2.

The event, which was put on by The Utah Statesman and the Government Relations Council, or GRC, was an opportunity for USU students to become familiar with the mayoral and council candidates for the city of Logan and was held in the Taggart Student Center.

The event was also broadcasted on Aggie Radio 92.3 FM, live streamed to the Statesman's YouTube channel and was moderated by USU students Darcy Ritchie, Jacee Caldwell and Dexon Lake.

The town hall was split into two sections, the first focusing on city council candidates and the second focusing on mayoral candidates.

The first section of the town hall focused on questions for city council candidates Amy Anderson, Keegan Garrity and Ernesto Lopez. Questions were provided by Statesman employees, GRC members and Instagram submissions.

The city council candidates were asked about parking in Logan, which relates to USU students living off campus.

"There's snow from October to March, and street parking is limited during that time," Garrity said. "I'd love to look at an option to not restrict parking entirely. It seems too restrictive to not allow parking on the street."



Anderson said she hopes to find an equitable solution for parking across the city of Logan, and Lopez encouraged incentive for public transportation.

Council candidates were also asked how they handled criticism and complaints from the community.

Lopez was the first candidate to respond to the question. He again shifted the conversation in the direction of parking and said students have reached out to him about the issue. He also prided himself on responding to his constituents.

"I try to respond within the day," Lopez said. "I think that's one thing we can always do better. And if we don't know the answer, it's making sure we figure out who can respond to those questions."

Anderson responded to the question by talking about issues relating to homelessness, and Garrity brought up



PHOTOS BY Joseph F Myers
Left: Dee Jones speaks during the candidate town hall. **Above:** Amy Z. Anderson, left, Keegan Garrity, middle, and Ernesto Lopez, right, at the candidate town hall. **Right:** Holly Daines answers a question at the candidate town hall.

issues relating to the council's election process.

The closing question for the city council candidates asked why they feel they are qualified to hold a position on the council.

Anderson was first to respond. She feels her experience makes her a good candidate, and mentioned her education and experience serving on the council. She has been on the council for four years.

"I hope people have seen that I have that energy, passion and dedication," Anderson said. "I have the time, the energy and I will always put in the effort to make



sure every voice feels like they're heard."

In response to the question, Garrity noted his experience working on the school board, and Lopez expressed his love for USU and the community.

The second section of the town hall focused on questions for the mayoral candidates, incumbent Holly Daines and Dee Jones.

The mayoral candidates were first given the opportunity to explain why they felt qualified to hold the position of mayor.

Daines was first to respond, saying that her experience on city council, and previously serving as Logan city mayor, left well qualified to hold office.

Jones said his experience working in corporate marketing makes him a great candidate.

"It takes a business mind to run a city," Jones said. "A city is a corporation. I was very successful in the corporate world."

Both candidates were also asked their opinion on coronavirus restrictions including mask and vaccine mandates.

Jones said that he believes masks and vaccinations to be a personal choice.

Daines said it is not the mayor's job to pass a mandate. "At this point, I have looked to the governor," Daines said. "I follow his lead as he tries to advocate and encourage. The best way to defeat this is to get vaccinated, but I'm not in the position to pass mandates."

Read the rest of this story at usustatesman.com.

TWEETS of the WEEK

@Chardy_22
drake the type of fella to thank the bus driver after getting off the aggie shuttle

@nottriscravello
these gpa-looking gas prices need to go! \$3.89 is summa cum laude gas. i need some academic probation gas

USU students paint the streets

By Natalie Rust
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

Music blasts from speakers surrounding the Taggart Student Center bus loop, students huddle in clusters, paintbrushes in hand. The air pulses with energy as students laugh and sing along, hunched over freshly dried paint.

"It's great," said Sophie Hinton, a student at Utah State University. "All the good tunes are going and then there's just the smell of paint everywhere and everyone's just partying. I love it."

Every year Aggies paint the TSC loop blue and white to kick off Homecoming Week. One of the oldest Utah State University traditions, street painting illuminates the diversity of USU clubs and involvement.

During street painting, representatives from USU clubs come together to paint a mural symbolizing each of their organizations. Each club paints a square, usually denoting their club name or logo.

"It's just a great way to spend the last couple weeks of fall before winter hits," said Bailey Werling, a member of the Utah State University Student Association Traditions

Committee.

Street painting provides an opportunity for students to explore the diversity of USU's student organizations. Students can stroll along the TSC loop to admire the artwork and ask club representatives questions.

"It lets the students who aren't involved with anything kind of know about these clubs and entities around campus," said Nathan Peel, the founder of USU's Scandinavian Culture Club.

Peel painted the club's logo — a Viking headset — to represent the organization. Peel started the club to celebrate Scandinavian culture in tribute to his ancestors who were from the area.

"We just look at stuff within the Scandinavian culture, celebrate holidays, celebrations, eat food," he said.

The American Society of Civil Engineers took up a square this year as well. For their mural, they painted a steel bridge and concrete canoe logo to illustrate one of their annual engineering competitions.

"And so our tile is the three main motor so it's the steel bridge logo, the concrete canoe logo and then the American Society of Civil Engineers, or ASC," said Jeff Huffman, a member of the club.

Latinos in Action painted a square in honor of Dia De Los Muertos, which starts on Nov. 1. Latinos in action, carefully painted in cursive letters, stretched across the bottom of the square. Above the letters, students worked on a giant skull.

"We're doing a skull because it's very close to Dia De Los Muertos," said Clarissa Hernandez, a USU freshman.

Some students switched between murals. Sophie Hinton took turns painting at four different squares.

"It's a party. It's so great. I love it," she said.

"It's a great way to show Aggie pride," said Bailey Werling, a member of the USUSA Traditions Committee. "It's just a really fun time for all the organizations to come together and hang out for a couple hours."



Natalie Rust is a freshman interested in studying international studies at Utah State University. In her free time, she loves to read, thrift and explore the great outdoors.

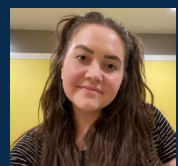
—natalie.rust@usu.edu



PHOTO BY Jared Craig

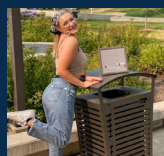
Students paint the TSC loop.

@graciejoavere



they said midterms season hits you hard but I didn't realize they meant it hits you like the aggie shuttle at that one intersection all the time

@ChronicVirgo

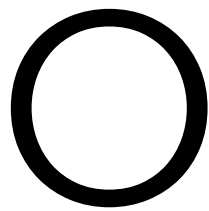


It's raining in Utah, which means it's time for everyone in Utah to tweet about reflective lane lines

@McJesse



Nothing like reaching into your winter jacket and finding one of last year's pandemic masks.



Vote in your local elections

It is your civic duty — as well as in your community's best interest — to vote in all elections, specifically the upcoming local election.

Your vote has a greater influence at a local level than at a national level. By voting, you can have a positive impact on our Logan campus and the whole valley.

When asked what the best way a student should go about voting, Ethan Conlee, the Student Advocate Vice President, said to “represent the students after you.”

Your campus is a part of your current student life, but when you graduate, a new wave of students come to Logan. When voting, think of the candidate who best aligns with what you want your community to be like.

“Activism on a local level is more important than a national level,” Conlee said.

The likelihood a single citizen's word will be heard by a state or national representative is far less than with a local official. For instance, when trying to contact the Mayor Holly Daines, I received a phone call from her secretary fewer than two hours after my call.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, national and local lawmakers set policies in response to statistics and headlines. However, more specific policies came at a local level in response to the national and statewide declarations of emergencies.

For instance, in response to the governor's declaration of a state of emergency in August 2020, the Logan Municipal Council decided on a mask mandate.

Despite the importance of local elections, local voter turnout has been between 15-27% of eligible voters compared to a national election voter turnout of 60% of eligible voters. In August, the Logan mayor primary had a 22.24% voter turnout. Fewer than half the number of individuals that vote at a national level vote at a local level. As students, there are issues primarily addressed on a local level — such as housing — which are a constant problem for our age group.

Most recently, 800 Block apartments left hundreds of students without housing less than two months before school began. The same parent company, Nelson Partners, have treated their residents unfavorably in recent months. Issues like these can be addressed and solved at a local level by the

mayor's office and Logan Municipal Council.

At one of the latest meetings of the Logan Municipal Council on Oct. 5, they discussed parking strip landscaping, addressed budget adjustments and dealt with a handful of other local issues.

There was time in the meeting for members of the public to bring up grievances. However, no one



PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby

spoke. These meetings occur on the first and third Tuesday of every month. The mayor was present — as well as other members of her council — ready to hear public concerns. This is just one of the mayors' responsibilities and one of the ways the mayor's authority matters to you.

Mayor Daines answered multiple questions about her previous accomplishments helping the life of USU students, as well as her future intentions. In her current administration, she has helped make downtown Logan more pedestrian friendly, has set up the Center Street arch, and added more foliage.

She also aided in collecting two million dollars in

private funding for a new Center Block Plaza. Planners want to include a stage for concerts, multiple new restaurants, an ice rink for the winter months and a splash pad for summer months in the plaza. The hope is to have a more entertaining town square for Logan and for the students at USU.

There has also been a \$4.1 million grant given to

Logan by UDOT for a pedestrian underpass at W. 600 S. under South Main St. Builders say it will increase travel accessibility by trail and recreational resources for Logan citizens.

These decisions and many like it are influential to your campus life and your community. Millions of dollar, and large infrastructure changes are being made on your behalf based on your vote.

To register to vote in Utah you must be a U.S. citizen, reside in Utah for at least 30 days before the election, and be at least 18 years old on or before the election day. Logan has two options for voting in this election: vote-by-mail and in person on election day, Nov. 2.

Two candidates have passed the primary election for mayor of Logan. One is an incumbent, Daines, and the other is an active member of USU alumni programs.

Holly Daines served as mayor the past four years. Prior to that, she served in the Logan Municipal Council for eight years.

The other candidate is Dee Jones. He is member of multiple of Utah State Universities associations such as Aggies Unlimited, the Old Main Society and the USU Alumni Hall of Honor. He has also served with the mayor's civil service commission.

These candidates are people who care about our community and are following their civic duty by running for mayor. It is our civic responsibility to research about, learn about and vote for a candidate that would be best for you, your university and your home.

Sara Prettyman is a Maryland born and raised sophomore. She's majoring in applied mathematics and loves drawing, running and reading.



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Polarization never belongs in the classroom

In today's political scene, party views are the most divergent from moderate standpoints in history. With the country becoming more divided on matters of public policy, civil discourse is making way for disrespect and even violence.

This is a problem. Effective political discussions lead to compromise, allowing Congress to properly pass legislation.

Instead, the U.S. government opts to utilize executive orders and other means to bypass traditional methods of enacting laws, avoiding government standstills. But we still cannot escape government inefficiency due to their inability to compromise.

Historically, compromises have built solid policies and have allowed the U.S. to move past intense hardships. Many Americans want to see more compromise between Republicans and Democrats but refuse to give any ground when discussing specific policies.

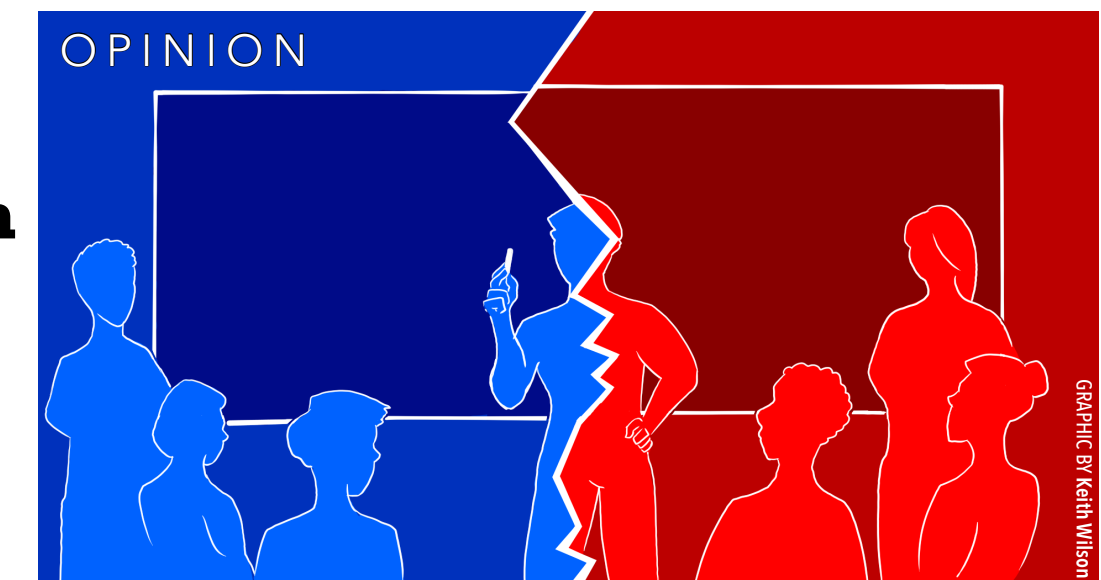
Because many Republicans and Democrats see the other side as intolerable, polarization only becomes more pronounced until it damages the physical, emotional and social health of U.S. citizens.

It is no surprise then this affects university classrooms. Students see polarization within the classroom — usually when a professor or classmate discusses a polarizing political idea and is supported or shut down. This has a negative effect on classroom environments, as it merely continues the cycle of polarizing behavior and stops college students from actually learning.

Colleges and universities allow students pursuing higher education to interact with other students who come from different backgrounds. As a result, young college students experience interaction with contrary beliefs much more frequently. These interactions are often beneficial, as individuals can learn to appreciate other ways of thinking.

However, polarization has become more commonplace and aggressive, in part due to the coronavirus health crisis. Conversations about the politics of the crisis are bound to happen in university classrooms and the potential grows for education to be disrupted.

This is not to say that a healthy debate can't be good to help resolve differences or expand on someone's beliefs, but the traditional classroom is not a great place for debate. The role of a teacher is to ensure that students understand the information needed to competently navigate their field of study,



not to dictate a student's moral and political beliefs.

Some argue teachers are essential in shutting down misinformation or harmful ideas. This might be useful in pre-secondary education where students often lack the experience to fully understand the political opinions of their social circle. But once a student understands how to logically justify arguments and political stances, they shouldn't be treated as a child. This will only alienate students from professors.

This is also an invitation for students to be more forgiving of educators who seem to dismiss their beliefs. Diving into tangential political discussions by disrupting class burns time that could be spent on relevant course work, so most professors avoid these discussions. This can lead students to believe a professor is intolerant or unsympathetic, which can disengage students from the class.

In short, polarization in the classroom makes learning harder for students and teaching harder for professors.

So why not ban all politics entirely from the classroom?

Because an outright ban of politics in a university classroom does more harm than good. For starters, university education builds interest in being politically active. The university should be ready to provide resources for students to constructively explore political beliefs.

Also, university courses cover a wide array of topics, some of which deal with polarizing content. Ignoring the issue harms students' abilities to interact with controversial ideas civilly and makes the university and professors seem disconnected from reality.

Instead, let's look outside the classroom and give both students and university professors some breathing space. There is success in simple conversations if there is enough time and effort to properly engage with difficult topics.

Let's utilize one of the most important parts of college life: extracurricular organizations. By letting students with differing views discuss current events in a civil and understanding setting, more college graduates will become citizens who can do the same.

Understanding how to minimize polarization is important at any university, but it is especially important for Utah State University. Many of our students are Utah residents who have lived here their whole lives, while also many of our students come from all around the nation or the world.

The culture in Utah is unique from other states, which can be jarring for those new to the region. Having clubs or groups that provide spaces for interaction between individuals with different ideas, beliefs and political affiliations would let students capitalize on the vast diversity of opinions that exists in USU.

I haven't been able to locate a group that specifically tackles this aspect of political engagement, but there is no shortage of university organizations that advocate positively for their respective ideals. While these groups' goals are admirable, there are far fewer groups at USU that seek to bridge the ever-increasing divide between political parties.

If we want to avoid alienating students, we should seek to increase the opportunities available for civil discourse, without detracting from in-class education.

Bryant Saunders is a computer science major. He is a member of Utah State Speech and Debate and has an enthusiasm for discussing philosophy and politics.



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Aggies favorite *Halloween* traditions

By Brielle Carr
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Students at Utah State University are getting ready to celebrate the scariest time of year by gearing up in their best costumes and participating in local Halloween activities.

This year, Jill Mecham, a student at USU, plans to dress up, make Halloween desserts and decorate “the heck out of” her place.

Last year, Mecham made a pumpkin-shaped cake and deemed it to be one of the most fun traditions she’s ever done. This year, Mecham and her roommates have decided to dress up as Disney villains, with Mecham starring as Dr. Facilier.

Other students, including Rachel Gomez, plan to attend the Howl at USU as part of their celebration. The Howl is an annual event notorious for being one of the biggest Halloween parties in Utah. This year’s theme for the Howl is “What Lies Below.”

Gomez plans to do “Halloweekend” with her roommates as well.

“We just do Halloween stuff the entire weekend,” Gomez said. “We go to pumpkin patches and we paint pumpkins. We carve them. And we get probably too much Halloween candy to share.”

Another spooky Halloween event on campus is Fright Night, hosted by Phi Alpha Theta/History Club on Old Main Hill from 7 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 27. There will be scary stories from history and treats for all those who attend.

The president of the history club, Michaela Whitney, said this event is a great way for students to get involved with Phi Alpha Theta and get to know the faculty in the history department.

And if that’s not incentive enough, prizes will be given to those who show up in the best costumes.

There are two locations in Logan that offer corn mazes: Little Bear Bottoms Corn Maze and the American West Heritage Center.

In downtown Logan there’s a ghost tour at the Cache County Historic Courthouse and Cherry Peak Ski Resort is hosting a Haunted Slopes event.

Hyrum Stallings, a sophomore at USU, is one of many students who came from families who go all out for the Halloween season.

“My family does a 5K run every year on Halloween. Rain or snow, we don’t care. It’s tradition,” Stallings said. “My favorite tradition is we go see a pumpkin catapult competition.”

Stallings referred to the First Dam Scary Run, hosted in Logan on Oct. 30. There is a 5K and 10K run. The turnaround point for the 10K will be at First Dam.



PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby

**HEY AGGIES!
HEY HURD!
HEY ALL YOU NIGHT OWLS!**

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awesome people to help us get
open overnight every night!**

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overnights soon!
BUT UNTIL THEN - WE WANTED
TO LET YOU KNOW WE WILL BE
OPEN ALL NIGHT ON **FRIDAY,**
OCTOBER 29TH - THE NIGHT OF
THE HOWL
EXTEND THE PARTY AT 800
NORTH & MAIN!**

APPLY FOR
USUSA APPOINTED POSITIONS & COMMITTEES
2021-2022

ELECTIONS HEARING BOARD

NOMINATIONS DUE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, AT 5 P.M.

Members of the Hearing Board interpret and enforce the USUSA constitution and bylaws to resolve grievances and ensure elections are fairly executed. Students attending all USU campuses are eligible for this leadership experience.

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A CLASSMATE NOW AT
INVOLVMENT.USU.EDU/APPLY



Student Affairs
UtahStateUniversity

USUSA
Student Involvement
& Leadership

Last week's solution:

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

IF A TREE
FALLS IN OUR
ANNUAL PUBLIC
BUDGET HEARING
AND NO ONE'S
THERE TO HEAR
IT, IS IT BEING
HELD ACCOUNTABLE?



Wilson

CARTOON BY Keith Wilson

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

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Sudoku
OF THE DAY



CRONQUIST

BALLARD

BALLARD

MELVIN J. BALLARD
FEB. 9, 1895
DIED IN 1974

AUDRIA M. BALLARD
JAN. 21, 1896
DIED IN 1955

The "Weeping Woman" located in the in the Logan Cemetery.