

# Daily Herald

## Note to our readers

There will be no weekend paper due to Independence Day

## UVU officially joins the Big West

Wolverine athletics marks historic day **SPORTS, B1**



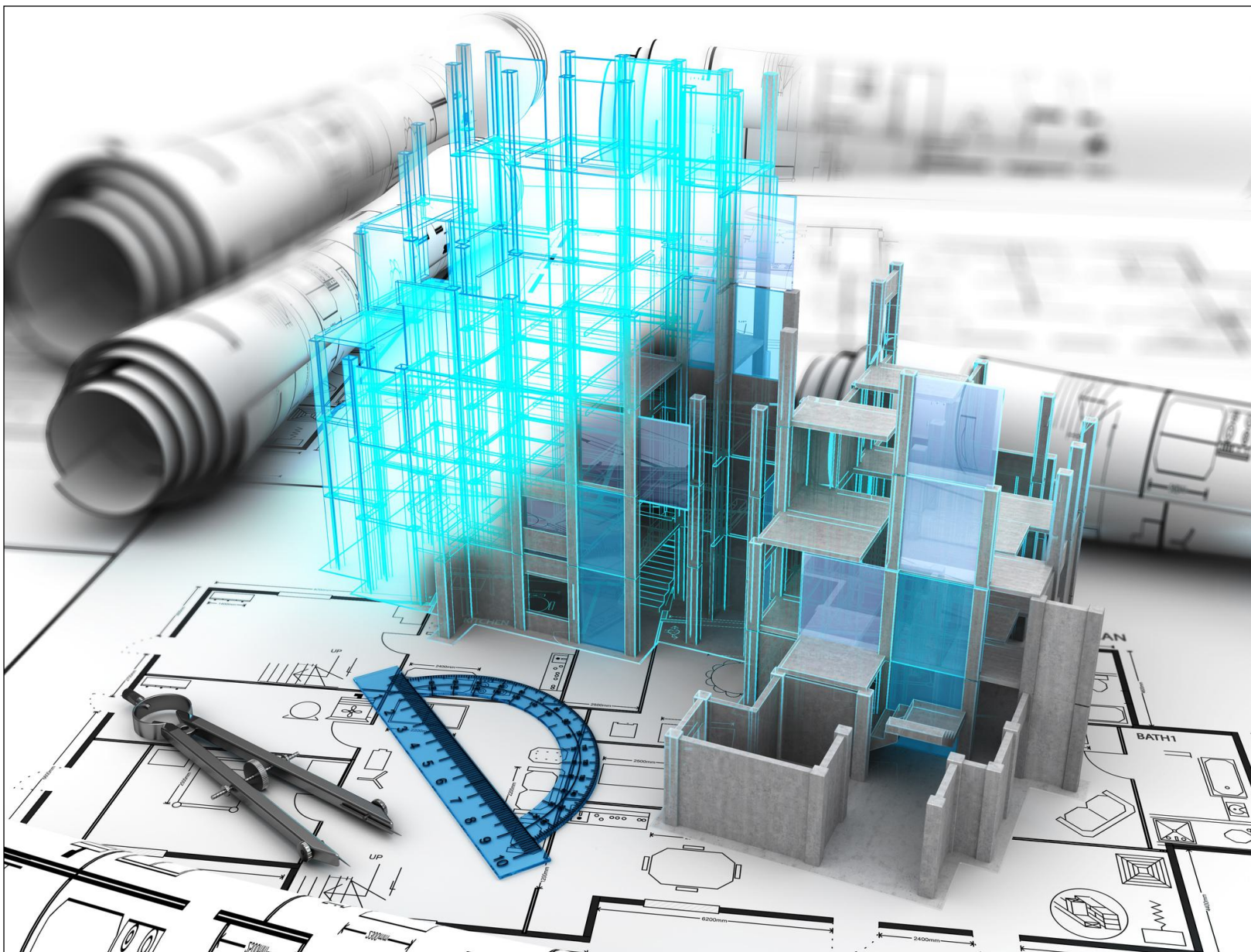
**PARTLY SUNNY 87 • 58** FORECAST, A2

**THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026**

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# First in the state



Courtesy image

An abstract 3D illustration of building construction computer model over blueprints

## UVU architecture program reaches accreditation status

**BY JACOB NIELSON**  
Daily Herald

Utah Valley University became one of the 56 accredited Bachelor of Architecture programs in the country — and the first in the state.

The university announced last week that it reached accreditation status from the National Architectural Accrediting Board, providing students with a direct path to a professional license.

The most common architecture program is a 4 + 2 model, where students had to complete a four-year undergraduate degree followed by a two-year master's degree to become an architect, according to a UVU news release.

UVU launched a five-year Professional Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2019 to meet demand for employees in the building design industry. According to the university, NAAB accreditation signifies that the program has met rigorous educational requirements for curriculum, faculty qualifications, facilities, student performance and learning outcomes.

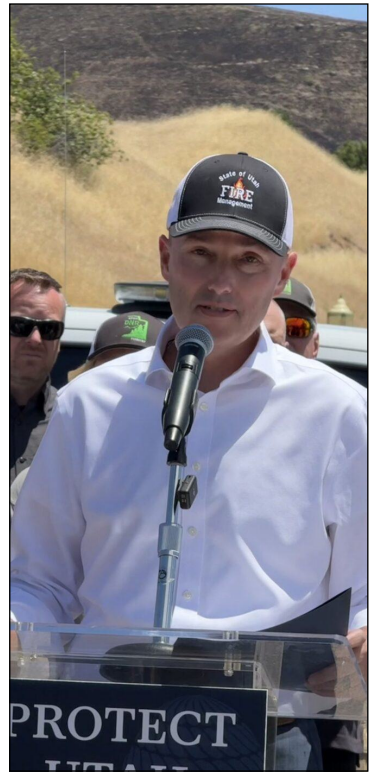
"Accreditation belongs to the students as much as anyone," UVU architecture program coordinator Paul Monson said in the news release. "All our alumni and current students chose UVU before accreditation was guaranteed. They believed in the vision and direction of the program and helped shape its culture through countless hours of hard work. They

took a chance on a young and ambitious program, and thanks to their commitment, they helped build something enduring."

UVU lauded the faculty, students and alumni who helped establish and grow the program.

"I am appreciative of the stellar education I received from UVU architecture," alum Tressa Messenger said. "I learned a language of classical design, placemaking, and problem solving that helps me each and every day in my current workplace."

The university said its program places a strong emphasis on classical design principles, placemaking and community-centered architecture.



Alixel Cabrera, Utah News Dispatch  
Utah Gov. Spencer Cox speaks during a news conference announcing a fireworks ban on June 25.

## Some cities opt out of governor's statewide fireworks ban, but most keep it in place

**BY KATIE MCKELLAR**  
Utah News Dispatch

Citing dire wildfire conditions across the state, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox last week sent a strong message of caution to Utahns when he issued an executive order enacting a statewide fireworks ban through July 5.

The order set a sweeping "default" ban that prohibited personal fireworks across the state, "but every mayor with every fire warden in the state can decide where fireworks are OK," the governor said, encouraging cities to designate areas where their residents could light off fireworks safely in their communities.

The order temporarily suspended a law that blocks the state forester from banning fireworks within city boundaries. In Utah, local leaders have had the option to ban fireworks in certain areas, but the Utah Legislature has blocked them from enacting a blanket, citywide ban.

Professional firework shows, like those put on by communities, are still allowed under the order.

While most cities — including all in Salt Lake County — are letting the governor's "default" ban stay in place, some are bucking the trend.

So even though the governor issued a statewide ban, what that actually looks like is a patchwork of different fire restrictions, depending on the city.

For a list of local fireworks restrictions or decisions to lift the governor's blanket ban, visit the Utah fire marshal's website. However, some of the local restrictions listed on that site

## Administration seeks to stomp out fires with discredited policy

**BY MARTHA BELLISLE AND MATTHEW BROWN**  
Associated Press

The deaths of three U.S. government firefighters in a Colorado wildfire are casting a spotlight on the Trump administration's creation of a new federal fire service and its revival of a previously discredited policy to stomp out all wildfires quickly.

One of the killed firefighters worked for the U.S. Wildland Fire Service, established this year without customary congressional approval by drawing personnel from four agencies within the Interior Department. The victims were part of an elite, helicopter-based crew that got trapped Saturday in a fast-growing wildfire near the Utah border as they attacked the blaze on the ground.

Five firefighters, including the ones who died, tried to shield themselves by deploying tentlike emergency shelters as flames overran their position. The two survivors were hospitalized with burn injuries.

The consolidation of thousands



Aaron Acker, The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel via AP  
U.S. Wildland Fire Service Chief Brian Fennessy speaks at a news conference about Colorado wildfires Monday in Fruita, Colorado.

of personnel into the fire service has sown confusion among some firefighters about who their bosses are and what their responsibilities should be, according to former government officials.

And the administration's focus on "full suppression" of new fires marks a sharp reversal from a

decades-long trend toward embracing flames as a tool — to burn off old vegetation and growth that acts like fuel and lessen the risk of catastrophic blazes being stoked by a warming planet.

The changes benefit private fire aviation companies that are key to hitting blazes fast.

Federal officials have not released details on the circumstances preceding the weekend deaths, including the firefighters' objective at the site where they were overrun.

"The question is, why were they attacking that fire in the first place?" asked Timothy Ingalsbee, a former federal firefighter and cofounder of the advocacy group Firefighters United For Safety, Ethics and Ecology. "What was actually at risk? If it was a bunch of shrubs on remote mountaintops, what was the real risk that justified putting those firefighters at risk?"

## 98% of fires are extinguished

Wildfires ignited over the past week all across the West following months of dry weather and a record lack of snow in some places. Authorities in southern Colorado said Tuesday that a wind-driven fire northwest of Colorado City had burned more than 35 square miles (90 square kilometers) and

See **WILDFIRES, A4**

See **FIREWORKS, A6**

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