



UFC show update
2 of 8 men plead not guilty
in alleged attack plot **NEWS, A3**

Preseason rankings in the Big 12
Daily Herald sports writers talk 1-on-1 **SPORTS, B1**



SUNNY/SHOWERS 84 • 55 FORECAST, A2 | **FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026** | heraldextra.com | \$1

Timp Fire investigation leads to arrest of previously convicted arsonist

BY JACOB NIELSON
Daily Herald

A previously convicted arsonist was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of starting the Timp Fire in American Fork Canyon.

Conrad Jared Larsen, 46, of West Jordan, faces one count of arson, a second-degree felony, after authorities say he was seen starting the fire near the Timpooneke Campground on July 9.

The fire burned approximately two acres and forced the temporary closure of campgrounds and Tibble Fork Reservoir.

The Utah County Sheriff's Office said it was alerted Wednesday by the U.S. Forest Service that Larsen was a suspect. According to an affidavit, Larsen has an extensive history of starting fires in the Timpooneke Campground area, including a 17-acre fire in 2017 for which he was charged and convicted for.

On July 9, witnesses saw a male matching Larsen's description throwing sticks on a fire.

"This fire was outside a firepit, consumed two bushes, and had flames approximately 10 feet high while Conrad was throwing more

fuel on the fire," the affidavit said. "Conrad was also seen in the area before and after the fire."

Larsen was found holding a large log and had a lighter in his back pocket, and said he knew there had been an incident but did not know what had occurred, according to authorities.

"Conrad advised he likes to have campfires every night. Conrad also had a very strong odor of smoke coming from his vehicle," the affidavit said.

The Forest Service said the fire's damage will exceed \$5,000.



Courtesy U.S. Forest Service
The Timp Fire is pictured Friday in American Fork Canyon.



A man fishes at Utah Lake on May 22. Jacob Nielson, Daily Herald

Seeking community support

Utah Lake Authority announces launch of nonprofit arm

BY JACOB NIELSON
Daily Herald

The Utah Lake Authority announced this week the launch of a nonprofit organization that will serve as the lake's fundraising arm, the Utah Lake Foundation.

Organizers say the foundation's objective is

to engage the community and work to expand recreation and improve the ecological health of the lake.

"It's not like we can go and raise taxes on the fish," said ULF manager and ULA Development Director Shelby Kozak. "Instead, we wanted to find a way to have the community feel like they are a part of improving the (lake)."

Much of the ULA's efforts to restore the lake's health comes from \$1.5 million in annual state allocations, as well as additional grants and federal sources.

The ULF seeks to generate a new source of private funding, which the ULA said will go

See ULA, A4



Harrison Epstein, Daily Herald
Hunter Hamblin, center, and his sister Ella Hamblin play the ball toss game at the American Fork Steel Days Carnival on Saturday, July 9, 2022.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

BY DAILY HERALD

Utah Valley Weekend Highlights
2026 Steel Days: Various locations, American Fork, July 18-25, all day (steeldaysaf.com)

2026 Spanish Fork Fiesta Days
Spanish Fork City Park, July 18-25, all day (sffiestadays.com)

Roald Dahl's MATILDA: THE MUSICAL
SCERA Shell Outdoor Theatre, Orem, July 17-18, 8 p.m. (scera.org)

Dustin Anderson Comedy
Covey Center for the Arts, Provo, July 18, 7 p.m. (renaissancenow.com/)
For the rest of the weekend calendar, please see A4.

Utah plans to buy, preserve more land on the south side of the Great Salt Lake

BY ANNIE KNOX
Utah News Dispatch

State leaders say they're moving closer toward a goal of snapping up more land on the southeast side of the Great Salt Lake to help protect it from any further encroaching development.

They announced a new \$2.5 million contribution from the Utah Inland Port Authority toward the effort on Wednesday, holding a news conference on the marshland property of a duck hunting club just a few miles from warehouses in the authority's northwest quadrant in Salt Lake City.

"This funding gives the Department of Natural Resources another tool to support shoreline preservation," Joel Ferry, commissioner for the Utah Department of Natural Resources, told reporters.

House Speaker Mike Schultz noted the state, using other sorts of funding, has already purchased

nearby land from the former Blackhawk Duck Club near the Salt Lake City International Airport. But Schultz, R-Hooper, said there's more to be done.

In 2022, Schultz carried a new state law requiring the authority to set aside funds for environmental and community mitigation. In

January of this year, the authority announced it would direct \$5 million toward wetland

See LAKE, A4

INSIDE TODAY: Classifieds B6 • Obituaries A4 • Comics B4 • Sports B1 • Opinion A5 • TV B5

Volume 183, Issue 290



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