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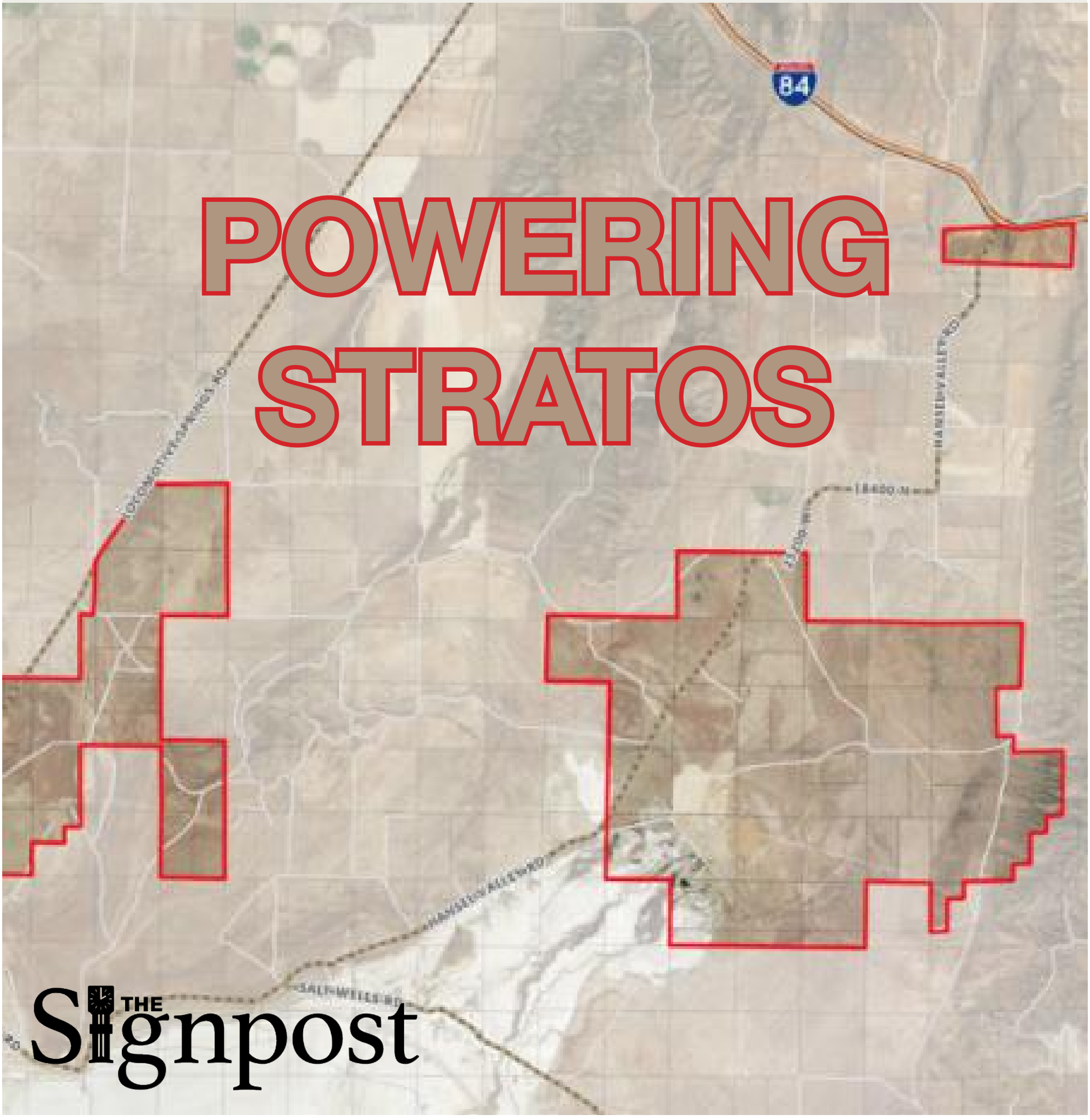


POWERING STRATOS

THE Signpost

WHAT EXPERTS SAY ABOUT THE SCALED-DOWN STRATOS PROJECT

By **ELLIE LEES**
Reporter

After pushback, celebrity investor Kevin O'Leary downsized the controversial Stratos Project, cutting its originally planned 40,000-acre data center campus to 20,000 acres.

Project leaders reduced the data center's power requirements from 9 gigawatts to 7.5 gigawatts. This is still close to double the 4 gigawatts consumed by the entire state of Utah.

The initial plan was for the project to be entirely powered by natural gas. However, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said that after its first phase, it will never be powered by gas alone.

As of now, no official plans or agreements have been made on how or when the center will begin using more sustainable energy sources.

The initial plan for the center is to have a 1-gigawatt natural gas plant, and a 0.5-gigawatt data center capacity. This represents a reduction from the original proposal, which called for a 1.5-gigawatt power plant generation. From March 2025 to March 2026, the entire state of Utah produced an average of about 1.48 gigawatts of energy from natural gas plants.

Weber State physics professor Daniel Schroeder calculated that with "high-efficiency combined-cycle plants," the original plan for the 1.5-gigawatt plant would have around the same carbon dioxide emissions as all of Utah's natural gas plants combined.

With the newly scaled-down 1-gigawatt plant proposal, the energy generated for the data campus will be around 2/3 of Utah's current natural gas energy.

Robert Davies, a physics professor at Utah State University, said that natural gas power plants are not 100% efficient. "A natural gas power plant is maybe 50% efficient," Davies said.

This can potentially create substantial waste heat.

At 50% efficiency, every gigawatt generated is about an equal number of gigawatts released as waste heat. Data centers produce waste heat, which is heat generated during operations that is not used for computing and must be removed from the facility.

Many data centers commonly use water-based cooling systems to remove that heat. In some cooling systems, water is circulated through pipes to absorb heat from servers and other equipment before being released or evaporated.

The facility is planned to operate using a closed-loop cooling system. This does not evaporate water, instead it is simply used to transport the heat, where it is expelled into the environment using fans.

Closed loops use a significantly smaller amount of water than what is traditional for data centers. The Stratos Project Fact Sheet, provided by the Box Elder County website, included that the water used inside the closed loop will not be sourced from the Great Salt Lake, and instead will come from existing private water rights previously used for agriculture.

The closed loop requires substantial amounts of energy to run and will expel waste heat straight into the environment. There are currently no official plans set up to manage this heat waste.

Geography will also play a role in how waste heat can efficiently disperse. During the day, a lot of heat will rise and mix into the atmosphere, but some amounts will remain low in the Hansel Valley. Davies estimates much more heat will stay trapped in the valley because it is cooler at night. "As soon as you start dumping heat into the valley, the temperatures start to go up."

Increased temperatures will also likely impact moisture in the valley since cooler temperatures at night are what allows dew or frost to form. This could affect the already fragile Great Salt Lake because Hansel Valley lies within its watershed.

"Even though you are not using a lot of water to do the actual cooling, this can still have a pretty large water effect because you are suppressing all of that condensation," Davies said.

Developers argue that thousands of temporary construction jobs will be made available during the project's multiple decades of development.

Data centers typically have very few permanent employees once construction is complete. Weber State economics professor John Mukum Mbaku said that some of the largest currently operating data centers in the country employ fewer than 150 employees, sometimes even as little as 25 employees.

Utah's Military Installation Development Authority, a key player in the Stratos Project, projects on their website that 2,000 permanent, specialized jobs will be available in Box Elder County; however, this has not been confirmed by third party sources. Both permanent and temporary job predictions have not changed since the announcement that the project will be downsized.

Mbaku said large, permanent workforces are uncommon at modern data centers, and employ relatively few workers once construction is done. "Once it is built and it's running, it is no longer labor intensive," Mbaku said. However, there are few examples of hyperscale data centers currently operating to compare Stratos to.

Box Elder County and the Utah Governor's office both said that the data center project will be paid entirely by developers and private investors. The Utah Governor's office said developers also committed $16.2 million upfront to the county for essential services. These developers will also be responsible for building new roads necessary for the data center.

LEFT: A crowd opposing the proposed Data Center in Box Elder watches the Box Elder County commissioners vote to approve the controversial Stratos Project. Photo captured May 4.
RIGHT: A crowd gathers in front of the Box Elder County fairgrounds, protesting the proposed Stratos Project. Photo captured May 4.

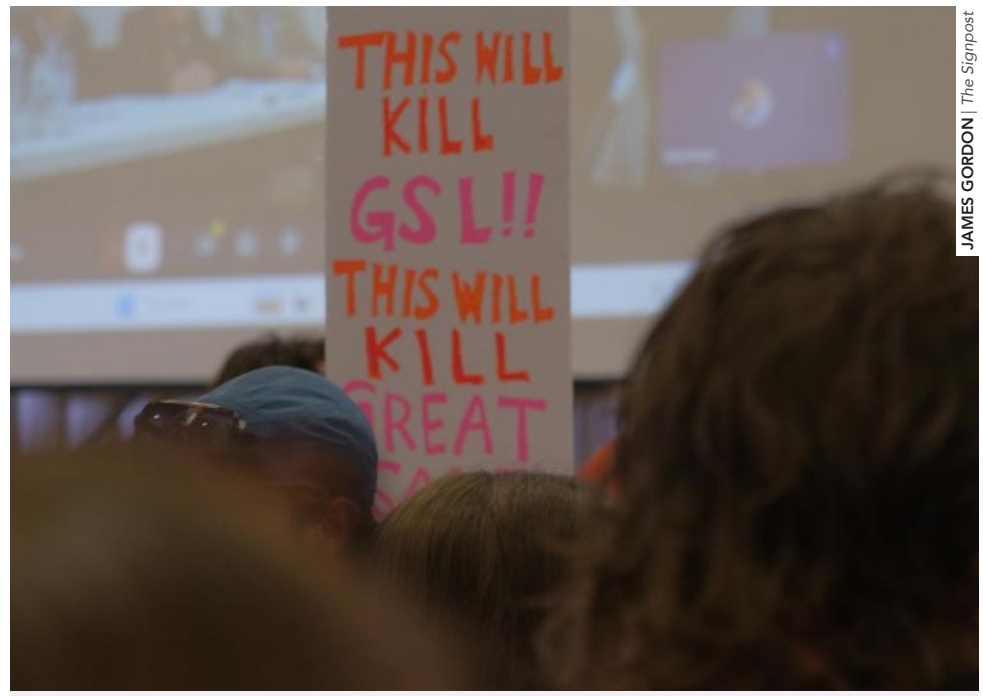
JAMES GORDON | *The Signpost*

JAMES GORDON | *The Signpost*

LO QUE OPINAN LOS EXPERTOS SOBRE EL PROYECTO STRATOS, AHORA A MENOR ESCALA

Traducido por
DAVID ROMAN AROS
Co-Editor

By **ELLIE LEES**
Reporter



JAMES GORDON | *The Signpost*

Un clamor generalizado se apodera del pabellón deportivo del recinto ferial del condado de Box Elder, mientras los concejales del condado impulsan un polémico centro de datos. Captado el 4 de mayo.

Tras las críticas recibidas, el famoso inversor Kevin O'Leary redujo la envergadura del polémico Proyecto Stratos, recortando el campus del centro de datos, inicialmente previsto en 40.000 acres, a 20.000 acres.

Los responsables del proyecto redujeron las necesidades energéticas del centro de datos de 9 gigavatios a 7,5 gigavatios. Esta cifra sigue siendo casi el doble de los 4 gigavatios que consume todo el estado de Utah.

El plan inicial era que el proyecto se alimentara íntegramente de gas natural. Sin embargo, el gobernador de Utah, Spencer Cox, afirmó que, tras su primera fase, nunca se alimentará únicamente de gas.

Por el momento, no se han establecido planes ni acuerdos oficiales sobre cómo o cuándo el centro comenzará a utilizar fuentes de energía más sostenibles.

El plan inicial para el centro consiste en contar con una central de gas natural de 1 gigavatio y un centro de datos con una capacidad de 0,5 gigavatios. Esto supone una reducción con respecto a la propuesta original, que preveía una central eléctrica con una capacidad de generación de 1,5 gigavatios. Entre marzo de 2025 y marzo de 2026, todo el estado de Utah produjo una media de aproximadamente 1,48 gigavatios de energía procedente de centrales de gas natural.

Daniel Schroeder, profesor de Física de la Universidad de Weber State, calculó que, con "centrales de ciclo combinado de alta eficiencia", el plan original de la central de 1,5 gigavatios habría generado aproximadamente las mismas emisiones de dióxido de carbono que todas las centrales de gas natural de Utah juntas.

Con la nueva propuesta de una central reducida a 1 gigavatio, la energía generada para el campus de datos será de alrededor de dos tercios de la energía de gas natural actual de Utah.

Robert Davies, profesor de física de la Universidad de Utah State, afirmó que las centrales eléctricas de gas natural no son 100 % eficientes. "Una central eléctrica de gas natural tiene quizá una eficiencia del 50%", señaló Davies.

Esto puede generar potencialmente un considerable desperdicio de calor.

Con una eficiencia del 50%, por cada gigavatio generado se libera aproximadamente el mismo número de gigavatios en forma de calor residual. Los centros de datos producen calor residual, es decir, el calor generado durante su funcionamiento que no se utiliza para la computación y que debe eliminarse de las instalaciones.

Muchos centros de datos suelen utilizar sistemas de refrigeración por agua para eliminar ese calor. En algunos sistemas de refrigeración, el agua circula por tuberías para absorber el calor de los servidores y otros equipos antes de ser liberada o evaporada.

Está previsto que la instalación funcione con un sistema de refrigeración de circuito cerrado. Este no evapora el agua, sino que simplemente la utiliza para transportar el calor, que luego se expulsa al exterior mediante ventiladores.

Los circuitos cerrados utilizan una cantidad de agua significativamente menor que la habitual en los centros de datos. La ficha informativa del Proyecto Stratos, facilitada por el sitio web del condado de Box Elder, indicaba que el agua utilizada dentro del circuito cerrado no procederá del Gran Lago Salado (Great Salt Lake), sino que provendrá de derechos de agua privados existentes que se utilizaban anteriormente para la agricultura.

El circuito cerrado requiere una cantidad considerable de energía para funcionar y expulsará el calor residual directamente al medio ambiente. Actualmente no existen planes oficiales para gestionar este calor residual.

La geografía también influirá en la forma en que el calor residual se dispersará de manera eficiente. Durante el día, gran parte del calor ascenderá y se mezclará con la atmósfera, pero una parte permanecerá en las zonas bajas del valle de Hansel. Davies estima que se acumulará mucho más calor en el valle, ya que por la noche hace más fresco. "En cuanto se empieza a verter calor en el valle, las temperaturas comienzan a subir".

Es probable que el aumento de las temperaturas también afecte a la humedad del valle, ya que las temperaturas más frescas de la noche son las que permiten que se forme el rocío o la escarcha. Esto podría afectar al ya frágil Gran Lago Salado, ya que el valle de Hansel se encuentra dentro de su cuenca hidrográfica.

"Aunque no se utilice mucha agua para la refrigeración propiamente dicha, esto puede tener un efecto bastante importante sobre el agua, ya que se está suprimiendo toda esa condensación", dijo Davies.

Los promotores argumentan que se crearán miles de puestos de trabajo temporales en la construcción durante las varias décadas que durará el desarrollo del proyecto.

Los centros de datos suelen tener muy pocos empleados fijos una vez finalizada la construcción. John Mukum Mbaku, profesor de Economía de la Universidad de Weber State, señaló que algunos de los centros de datos más grandes que operan actualmente en el país emplean a menos de 150 personas, a veces incluso tan solo 25.

La Autoridad para el Desarrollo de Instalaciones Militares de Utah (Utah's Military Installation Development Authority), actor clave en el Proyecto Stratos, prevé en su página web que se crearán 2.000 puestos de trabajo permanentes y especializados en el condado de Box Elder; sin embargo, esta información no ha sido confirmada por fuentes independientes. Las previsiones tanto de empleo permanente como temporal no han variado desde que se anunciara la reducción de la envergadura del proyecto.

Mbaku señaló que las plantillas grandes y permanentes son poco habituales en los centros de datos modernos, y que estos emplean a relativamente pocos trabajadores una vez finalizada la construcción. "Una vez construido y en funcionamiento, ya no requiere mucha mano de obra", afirmó Mbaku. Sin embargo, hay pocos ejemplos de centros de datos a hiperescala actualmente en funcionamiento con los que comparar Stratos.

Tanto el condado de Box Elder como la oficina del gobernador de Utah afirmaron que el proyecto del centro de datos será financiado íntegramente por los promotores y los inversores privados. La oficina del gobernador de Utah señaló que los promotores también se comprometieron a aportar 16,2 millones de dólares por adelantado al condado para servicios esenciales. Estos promotores también se encargarán de construir las nuevas carreteras necesarias para el centro de datos.

MORE THAN JUST INK AT OGDEN'S BODY ART EXPO

By **ALEESA CAMPBELL**
Reporter

On the weekend of June 5 to the 7, Odgen held its annual tattoo convention held at Ogden Union Station. This convention was hosted by local tattoo and piercing shop, Skin It Tattoos.

Special guest artists were invited to the convention, including Carlos Rojas from Apple Valley, California, who specializes in portraits and was featured on "Ink Master: Shop Wars" during season 9. More information on these special guest artists can be found on the Skin It Tattoos website.

Tattoo and piercing artists from around Utah were chosen for their artistry and invited to this year's convention. Multiple artists and shops came to the convention, including Scared Sins, Dark Horse Tattoo, Intrusive Ink, Evelynn Jean and Lil Red Shop.

Piercers also made an appearance at the body art expo, including Ambrosia, Amber and Christine from Skin It Tattoos, and Jade from Legacy Tattoo.

Niko Reeves, an artist at Varnished Anatomy, has been tattooing for 11 years, and learned his skills at Legacy Tattoo in Ogden. Reeves said tattoos can be meaningful.

"Tattoos are fascinating because they can be both extremely deep and have cultural ties," Reeves said. "Or they can be purely aesthetic, purely just for your own self-expression to show people who you are on the inside, on your body."

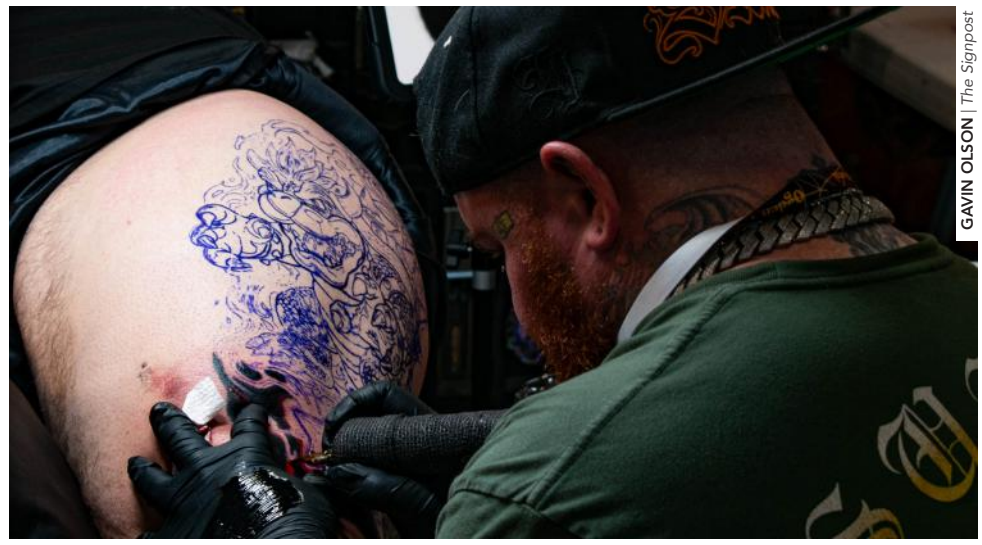
The body art expo allows the best artists to win cash prizes for winning contests, including Tattoo of the Day and Best of Show.

Each contest category had 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for both large and small tattoos.

According to Skin It Tattoos, they categorize small tattoos as under 12 inches, and large tattoos being 12 inches or more. Mike J from Studio Elevate won 1st place in the small color category on June 5.

One of the special guest judges was Danilo Barreto, an award-winning artist who specializes in realism as well as black and gray. Barreto is from Brazil and now lives in Utah. He currently works as an artist at Olympus Tattoo located in Salt Lake City.

Having a look around the art expo with her children was Merrilyn Matern, a local Ogden resident. Matern said she had around seven or eight tattoos and that her favorite was a colorful piece on her left arm.



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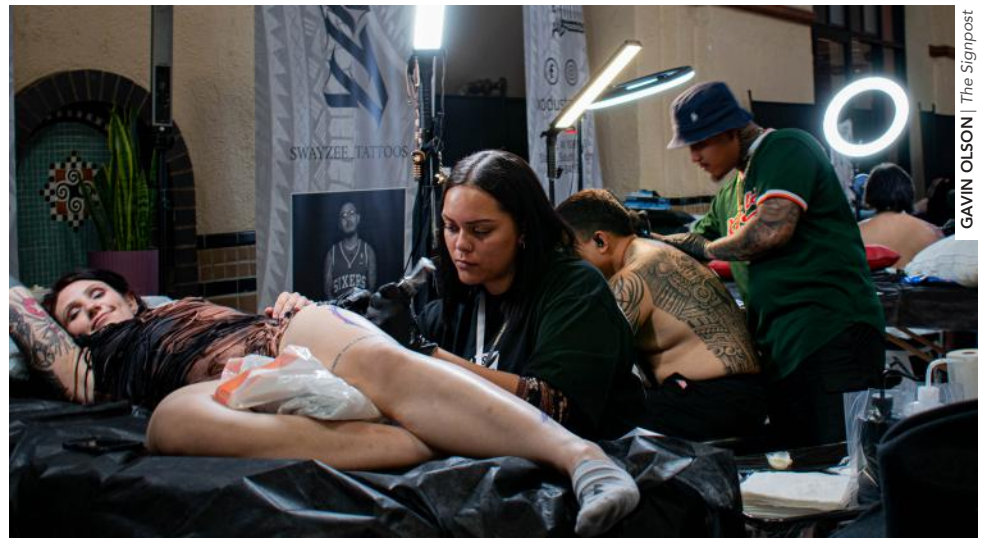

GAVIN OLSON | *The Signpost*

TOP: Tattoo artist Zac Pedrosa works on a client's tattoo at the Tattoo convention on June 4.
MIDDLE: Customers receive and prepare for their tattoos at the Tattoo Convention on June 4 .
BOTTOM: Multiple customers lined up recieving tattoos at the Tattoo Convention on June 4.

Matern said that she was OK with her kids getting tattoos and that all of her kids have some except for one. Matern had all her children wait until they were 18 before getting their first tattoos.

Some attendees got tattoos and piercings at the convention, while others just looked at the artists and their work. The annual Ogden Tattoo Convention brought together many people and families to admire the art of tattooing.

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WEMBANYAMA DOMINANCE: PERMANENT OR SPUR OF THE MOMENT?

OPINION

By **BRAYSON BROWN**
Reporter

From the moment NBA scouts laid eyes on Victor Wembanyama, they have been obsessed with the player's physical capabilities and basketball skills.

Wembanyama is 7 feet, 4 inches tall with an 8-foot wingspan and weighs 235 lbs. This year, the 22-year-old French player led his San Antonio Spurs to the NBA Finals in only his third NBA season. Is the league his now, or is there a shift coming into effect?

Ever since LeBron James was drafted in 2003, he has been the face of the NBA. But with James entering his 23rd season, it is time to pass the baton to the next face of the league.

Players who have found recent success have the same opportunity to put their name into the hat, including three-time MVP and NBA champion Nikola Jokic, and back-to-back MVP and reigning NBA champion Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. But Victor Wembanyama has been a different breed since arriving in the league.

The 7-footer with handles and shooting like a guard has made him an unstoppable force on the basketball court. Not many players stand above seven feet, and those who do are rarely as mobile as the French star. As his nickname goes, "The Alien," he has been nothing short of a different breed of player and has lived up to all the hype when he was drafted No. 1 overall in 2023.

Wembanyama won Rookie of the Year while scoring 21.4 points per game, along with 10.6 rebounds and 3.6 blocks per game. He was a serious contender for Defensive Player of the Year, but lost the award to fellow Frenchman Rudy Gobert.

The Spurs star's sophomore season was cut short after he was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis in his right shoulder, and only played 46 games. But in the 2025-26 season, he came back with a vengeance.

Wembanyama averaged 25 points, 11.5 rebounds, and 3.1 blocks per game during the regular season, while leading the Spurs to the number two seed in the West with a 62–20 record. He then went on to win Defensive Player of the Year as his presence near the basket alters shots and makes players think twice before shooting over "The Alien."

In his first postseason, he led the young Spurs to the NBA Finals, taking out the reigning NBA champion, the Oklahoma City Thunder, in a thrilling seven-game series during the Western Conference Finals.

Over the course of these playoffs, he has been nothing short of a superstar, playing both sides of the court with an elegance few players possess. He averages 23.3 points for his offensive talents and then 3.5 blocks and 0.9 steals per game for his defensive skills.

Leading your team to the finals at such a young age is rare, and it seems like Wembanyama's NBA reign has only just begun. For the rest of his career, opposing teams will have one priority: stop Wembanyama from dominating games.

Daniel Dunn | *Imagn Images*

Alonzo Adams | *Imagn Images*

TOP: Jun 3, 2026; San Antonio, Texas, USA; New York Knicks forward Og Anunoby (8) drives to the basket past San Antonio Spurs guard Devin Vassell (24) during the fourth quarter during game one of the 2026 NBA Finals at Frost Bank Center. BOTTOM: May 18, 2026; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA; San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (1) dunks the ball in the second quarter against the Oklahoma City Thunder during game one of the western conference finals for the 2026 NBA playoffs at Paycom Center.

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OGDEN RAPTORS OFFENSE SURGES AS PITCHING STRUGGLES

By **GRAYSON FREESTONE**
Editor

The Ogden Raptors started their season on the road against the Boise Hawks on May 19.

The season opener left the Raptors trailing 4-1 in the fourth inning, but a three-run seventh tied things up. However, the pitching faltered in the eighth by giving up five runs, leading to a 9-4 loss.

The Raptors bounced back the next day with an offensive outburst. Their five-run second and seventh led to a 15-6 win.

Their back-and-forth results continued with a 7-4 loss on Thursday, 11-8 win on Friday and a 5-4 loss on Saturday. The Raptors closed the series with a 16-15 loss, falling 2-4 in the series.

The Raptors returned to Ogden for their first home series of the 2026 season against the Missoula PaddleHeads. Consistent scoring over the first six innings and a five-run eighth capped a 9-3 win.

The momentum was short-lived for Ogden as the PaddleHeads lit up the Raptors' pitching with four straight games with double-digit runs, including a 26-run game. During that stretch, the PaddleHeads outscored Ogden 66-18. However, the Raptors returned the favor with a 17-10 win in the final game of the series.

The Raptors started June back on the road with a five-game series against the Idaho Falls Chukars. A scoring barrage turned the early season as the Raptors scored at least 10 runs and won by four or more runs in every game of the series. They outscored the Idaho team 92-57.

The series sweep helped the Raptors jump to a 10-8 record. They return to Ogden for a two-series homestand against the Great Falls Voyagers and RedPocket Mobiles starting on June 9.

THE OGDENITE

THE OGDENITE

TOP: Fans in the stands clapping and cheering at the Raptors baseball game on May 26th.

BOTTOM: Nico Saltaformaggio throws a pitch at the home game in Lindquist Field on May 26.

LA OFENSIVA DE LOS OGDEN RAPTORS MANTIENE AL EQUIPO A FLOTE

Traducido por
VICTORIA HERNANDEZ FLORES
Co-Editora

By **GRAYSON FREESTONE**
Editor

Los Ogden Raptors comenzaron la temporada fuera de casa contra los Boise Hawks el 19 de mayo.

En el primer partido de la temporada, los Raptors iban perdiendo por 4-1 en la cuarta entrada, pero una séptima entrada de tres carreras les permitió empatar el marcador. Sin embargo, el pitcheo flaqueó en la octava entrada al encajar cinco carreras, lo que les llevó a una derrota 9-4.

Los Raptors se recuperaron al día siguiente con una explosión ofensiva. Sus cinco carreras en la segunda y séptima entradas les llevaron a una victoria por 15-6.

Sus resultados irregulares continuaron con una derrota por 7-4 el jueves, una victoria por 11-8 el viernes y una derrota por 5-4 el sábado. Los Raptors cerraron la serie con una derrota por 16-15, quedando con un balance de 2-4 en la serie.

Los Raptors regresaron a Ogden para jugar su primera serie en casa de la temporada 2026 contra los Missoula PaddleHeads. Una puntuación constante durante las primeras seis entradas y una octava entrada de cinco carreras culminaron en una victoria por 9-3.

El buen momento de Ogden duró poco, ya que los PaddleHeads arrollaron al pitcheo de los Raptors con cuatro partidos consecutivos en los que anotaron más de diez carreras, incluido uno en el que sumaron 26. Durante esa racha, los PaddleHeads superaron a Ogden por 66 a 18. Sin embargo, los Raptors devolvieron el golpe con un triunfo por 17 a 10 en el último partido de la serie.

Los Raptors comenzaron junio de nuevo fuera de casa con una serie de cinco partidos contra los Idaho Falls Chukars. Una avalancha de carreras dio un giro al inicio de la temporada, ya que los Raptors anotaron al menos 10 carreras y ganaron por cuatro o más carreras en todos los partidos de la serie. Superaron al equipo de Idaho por 92 a 57.

La serie ayudó a los Raptors a alcanzar un récord de 10-8. Regresan a Ogden para una serie de dos partidos en casa contra los Great Falls Voyagers y los RedPocket Mobiles a partir del 9 de junio.

THE OGDENITE

An Ogden Raptors baseball player signs a ball for fans at the home game which took place on May 26

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