



Tim Martinez: Chief umpire promotes his job while on farewell tour
SPORTS, B7



Superior Court jury finds two men guilty of murder in Vancouver drive-by shooting
CLARK COUNTY, A3

The Columbian

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | Serving Clark County, Washington | www.columbian.com

WA bridges, roads among worst in U.S.

Annual Highway Report ranks state 48th, knocks its 'spending efficiency'

By **SIMONE CARTER**
The Olympian

OLYMPIA — Washington's bridges and roads have seen better days, a new report found.

The state's streets and spans rank No. 48 in the U.S. for cost-effectiveness and condition, according to the 29th Annual Highway Report from the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank, published Thursday. Only California and Alaska, which respectively placed 49th and 50th, fared worse. Virginia, Georgia and South Carolina came in first, second and third — in that order.

Washington dropped a spot in the Annual Highway Report ranking compared with last year, when it was rated 47th of 50 states. In this year's ranking, Washington was the highest-spending state across multiple classifications, according to the foundation. This comes as state officials have sought to boost funding for transportation-related upkeep. Gov. Bob Ferguson praised

state lawmakers for delivering on his priorities in a post-session news release.

"In my budget, I proposed \$1.5 billion for maintenance and preservation of our roads and bridges over the next six years, without raising taxes," he said in the March 12 release. "I appreciate the Legislature adopting that his-

ROADS, Page A2

Annual Highway Report

States' roads and bridges ranked for cost-effectiveness and condition:

TOP 3	BOTTOM 3
1. Virginia	48. Washington
2. Georgia	49. California
3. South Carolina	50. Alaska

Report published by the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank

'DESIGNING FOR DIGNITY'

Architects focus on function, healing



Construction continues on the city of Vancouver's new homeless shelter near Vancouver Mall.

AMANDA COWAN/The Columbian

Details make difference for those who have been living on streets

By **MIA RYDER-MARKS**
The Columbian

When's the last time you noticed the width of a hallway? Or the sharpness of the corners where the walls of your home meet? Or the way your bedroom window lets in the breeze?

These often overlooked details make all the difference for those who land housing after living on the street.

That's why the architects who design Clark County's shelters and permanent supportive housing apartments are intentional about each element down to the light switches and floorboards. These architects know they're not just drafting a blueprint for living quarters but designing a place for healing and new beginnings.

"How do we allow for choice? That ripples through design decisions at all levels," said Brendan Sanchez, principal at Access Architecture. "When we don't design spaces intentionally, there can be unintended consequences."

Space to heal

About 90 percent of people who are homeless have experienced some form of trauma. Many return to the streets after finding housing. A 2023 report found residents had greater success when living in homeless shelters that incorporate trauma-informed elements that helped them

COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM



Rendering contributed by Scott Edwards Architecture

An interior of the Bridge Shelter. Architects designing supportive housing said they seek a balance between making spaces functional without feeling institutional.



Contributed by Scott Edwards Architecture

Scott Edwards Architecture designed Vancouver's 120-bed homeless shelter, known as the Bridge Shelter, seen in an artist's rendering.

DESIGN, Page A2

Introduce tofu to your diet
FOOD, B1



Danny Westneat:



The real Trump derangement syndrome

OPINION, A4

Record-smashing heat spreads throughout U.S.

'Basically the entire U.S. is going to be hot,' meteorologist says

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

After smashing March heat records in 14 states and the U.S. as a whole, the gigantic heat dome that's baked the Southwest is creeping eastward and may end up being one of the most expansive heat

waves in American history, meteorologists and weather historians said.

And it's not going away for awhile, maybe not till the middle of the next week as April starts, said meteorologist Gregg Gallina of the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

"Basically the entire U.S. is going to be hot," Gallina said Monday. "The area of record temperatures is extremely large. That's the thing that's really bizarre."

This heat dome — in which high pressure is acting like a pot lid trapping hot air over a region — will leave Flagstaff, Ariz., with 11 or 12 straight days of temperatures higher than the city's previous March record, said meteorologist Jeff Masters of Yale Climate Connections.

Gallina said the dome's eastward movement will mean temperatures in the 90s by Wednesday over the south-

HEAT, Page A2



PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

A person wears a hat for shade while walking along The Strand in Redondo Beach, Calif., on Friday morning during a heat wave.

