

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S 2025 HOME RUN DERBY

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

RALEIGH CLAIMS DERBY CROWN

Seattle Mariners slugger Cal Raleigh becomes the second player in franchise history to win the Home Run Derby. **SPORTS, 1**

TUESDAY, July 15, 2025143rd VOL., ISSUE 58 - EST. MAY 19, 1883

“It is surprising news. Now my question is - who broke? Who blinked?”

Brian Muegge, local conservationist

DEVELOPER BACKS OUT OF THORPE ROAD HOUSING PLAN

Conservationists call off legal action after Blue Fern exits controversial land deal near Latah Valley

By Emry Dinman
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Local conservationists are celebrating after a Redmond, Washington-based developer unexpectedly pulled out of plans to build 1,000 homes in an undeveloped, wooded area along U.S. Highway 195 near Thorpe Road.

It may only be a temporary reprieve, however. Advocates will have two years to try to find a permanent solution to keep the land available to the public, or else it may once again be made available for housing development.

Blue Fern Development has been in the news frequently in recent months for two adjoining 1,000-home proposals in the Latah Valley.

See **THORPE, 7**

Canceled Blue Fern development

Proposed Victory Heights development

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Annual survey shows decrease in county homeless population

By Amanda Sullender
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The number of homeless people in Spokane County fell by 10.6% last year.

The findings are based on the 2025 point-in-time count conducted in January when teams fan out to count and question Spokane County's homeless population on a particular night. This year's count found

1,806 people living on the streets or in shelters.

It was the second consecutive year that showed a decline

While homelessness in Spokane dropped overall, the number of people living without shelter during January rose to 617 from 443 a year earlier, while the number of homeless people staying in shelters fell

See **COUNT, 7**

SPOKANE COUNTY HOMELESS POPULATION

Unsheltered Sheltered

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

617

1,189

Sources: Point-In-Time Count

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

HOPE THROUGH HOOPS

On a hardwood floor and under summer skies, Native youth find confidence, connection, inspiration through free basketball clinics

By Liam Bradford
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

People who come from humble beginnings and succeed in their careers often go out of their way to serve young people who might need a boost.

For two-time NCAA basketball champion and Olympic

Gold Medalist Carla McGhee, she gives back to today's youth through free basketball clinics, which she hosts several times a year through an organization called Rise Above that aims to mentor and empower Native American youth.

McGhee said her two biggest passions are basketball and

youth, so these camps are the perfect format for her to share knowledge and experience.

“Anytime I have an opportunity to pour into our youth and share some of my basketball experience, I’m raising my hand. I want in,” McGhee said. “I want other people to have that opportunity to experience change

and understand that that’s possible.”

McGhee said her participation in Rise Above youth clinics has helped her learn more about Native American culture. Prior to hosting these camps, she did not realize how much

See **BASKETBALL, 8**

Wildfire destroys Grand Canyon lodge

Park closes North Rim for remainder of season

By Andrew Jeong
WASHINGTON POST

A historic lodge in Grand Canyon National Park was one of dozens of structures destroyed by a wildfire in northern Arizona that has prompted evacuations and forced the closure of the North Rim to visitors for the remainder of the 2025 season, authorities said Sunday.

The Grand Canyon Lodge – the only lodging inside the park at the North Rim – was consumed by the Dragon Bravo fire, a blaze sparked earlier this month that had engulfed 5,000 acres and destroyed at least 50 structures as of Sunday. It was burning about 35 miles south from the bigger White Sage fire, which was “experiencing rapid growth” to the north and east Sunday after erupting last week near Arizona’s border with Utah.

The White Sage fire had burned more than 40,000 acres by Sunday, doubling in size from the previous day. Firefighters had yet to get containment around any of the perimeter of

See **FIRE, 8**

JESSE TINSLEY / THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Former SuperSonic player Dale Ellis slaps hands with players at the Rise Above basketball camp at Shaw Middle School Monday.

Partly sunny, breezy 77 57

Classifieds.....NW 4

Comics.....NW 8

Bridge.....NW 5

Lotteries.....News 4

Obituaries.....NW 4

Opinion.....NW 3

6 98961 23456 7 \$2

We're looking to install our NEXT GENERATION gutter guard on your home!

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

LIFETIME WARRANTY

BEFORE AFTER FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-866-953-6042

20% OFF + 10% OFF

Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!¹

Promo: 285

* See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 36620823, AZ 80C 344037, CA 1035795, CT HIC0671520, FL CRC059678, IA C127280, ID REC-51604, LA 559644, MA 176447, MD HMC111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN H731804, MT 220192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13H09953900, NM 408693, NY 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFINW8232, WV WV056912.