

Spokane outlaws warrantless immigration enforcement at events

Most public property protected from ICE access after fears prompt cancellation of festival

By Emry Dinman  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Immigration officers must have a warrant to enter a permitted event on most public property in Spokane if organizers request protection and go through the proper steps to receive it, the city council voted Monday.

The law, which went through months of delays to satisfy the concerns of enough council members to pass, did not come soon enough this summer to save Tacos and Tequila, an annual event celebrating Spokane's Latino community that would have typically taken place last weekend on a closed city street downtown but was canceled for fear of targeted raids by immigration officials.

"We just don't feel like it's safe right now to hold a Latino festival because we are being targeted right now," said Fernanda Mazcot, executive

See ICE, 4

# Schools across state adopt bans on cellphone use



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Students Tyler Prosser, left, Zoe Jackson, Puniyo Hoard and Ofelia Gutierrez play Uno on their lunch break in 2024. Salk administrators banned cellphone use during school hours and have seen a huge improvement in how students interact with each other without the distraction of cellphones.

By Elena Perry  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

As the school year nears for 1.1 million public school students in Washington, most of them will start the year with some sort of sweeping restriction on when, where and how they can use their cellphones on campus.

A survey by the state authority on public schools, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, found that most of Washington's 295 school districts are starting the year with a phone ban in some fashion. Many policies are new this year, some only a year or two old.

See CELLPHONES, 5

# STRETCHES OF WATER FLOW DANGEROUSLY LOW



## SPOKANE RIVER REACHES POTENTIAL RECORD SCARCITY AFTER 'PERFECT STORM' OF CONDITIONS

By Mathew Callaghan  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Katelyn Scott was walking along the Centennial Trail in Spokane Valley on Saturday morning when she noticed something odd. A blue heron, with a fish in its mouth, was stalking a shallow, rocky pond for more fish. But the

buffet-style puddle in which the heron was fishing is not a pond. It's typically a vast, flowing river with a strong current that trout use to mask themselves from predators such as ospreys and herons.

Scott, the Water Protector for the Spokane Riverkeeper, said she floated down that same part of the river be-

tween Barker and Sullivan roads in a 10-foot raft back in June.

"There's absolutely no way I could get my raft down that section right now," Scott said. "I couldn't even get a kayak or a paddleboard, or a rubber duck in some sections."

See RIVER, 2

Exposed rocks reveal the normal waterline Monday in the Spokane River below the Sullivan Road bridge in Spokane Valley.

KATHY PLONKA/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

# Quagga mussel fight leaves lasting river scars

Biologists say copper wiped out 90% of invertebrates, threatening waterway's food chain for years

A 6-mile section of the middle Snake River was treated with a pesticide to kill invasive quagga mussels.

COURTESY OF IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



By Alex Music  
IDAHO STATESMAN

The invasive quagga mussels found in an Idaho river in 2023 were microscopic. But to state officials, their presence was enormous.

Though the mussels couldn't grow much larger than a nickel, state officials said an infestation would devastate Idaho's economy and ecosystem, clogging water pipes and stealing food from native species. Biologists typically kill off the mussels

with chemicals, adding just enough of a lethal dose to infested waters. But treating mussels in a river had never been done before. Moving water would let the toxic chemicals travel beyond the treatment area.

State officials took the risk.

Only two weeks after that first mussel detection, the state spent \$3 million to flood the Twin Falls area of the Snake River with over 40,000 pounds of the prescribed copper-based poison. They had anticipated some of the impacts, like

scores of sturgeon, stocked from a hatchery, up to 8 feet long and 35 years old turning up dead. But other effects of the treatment, and the fate of the copper itself, were unknown until now.

Two years after the treatment, a new study from the U.S. Geological Survey detailed that the copper destroyed up to 90% of the invertebrates living in the area, putting at stake food resources for future fish

See SNAKE RIVER, 5

