

NORTHWEST

WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2025

‘Je Suis Charlie Kirk’: Slain commentator’s legacy lives on at Spokane council meeting

By Emry Dinman
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Christian conservative influencer Charlie Kirk was shot and killed a week ago, but his legacy was on display Monday night at the Spokane City Council meeting, where several speakers identified themselves as the deceased commentator, espoused his worldview and attacked the Democratic Party and its ideals.

It was a moment somewhat reminiscent

of the 1960 film “Spartacus,” or perhaps of “Je Suis Charlie,” the campaign of support following the murder of 12 staffers of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris in 2015.

Two commenters signed up as “Charlie Kirk” and “Weare Charlie,” although it’s unclear if they were separate individuals or one of the night’s other speakers, as they didn’t appear when called to speak. Another presenter, Jackson Dines, wore a baseball cap embroidered with the words

“I am Charlie Kirk.”

“I am Charlie,” began Will Hulings, a regular council attendee.

“Tonight, I need to speak about something from my heart, as someone who comes up here that speaks a lot,” Hulings continued, lamenting what he perceived as conservatives being attacked for their speech. “I’ve experienced death threats, I’ve had someone take me to court; someone you work with took me to court to try to silence me.”

Hulings appears to be referring to a council staffer who unsuccessfully petitioned for a restraining order against him after he posted a doctored photo of her with what she perceived to be semen flowing from her mouth – Hulings told the court it was “slobber” – and made other comments she perceived as a threat to “curb stomp” her. The judge called Hulings “rude” but argued his speech was

See **MEETING, 6**

Big job, little helper



KATHY PLONKA/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

BARK DUTY: “This is right up his alley,” Jennifer Wilson says as she and her son Jacob, 4, move a pile of bark near their home Tuesday in Newman Lake.

Former Spokane Tribe employee convicted of bank fraud

By Garrett Cabeza
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A federal jury last week convicted a former Spokane Tribe of Indians employee of 25 counts of bank fraud for embezzling over \$100,000 in funds used to support children in foster care.

Tawhnee W. Colvin, of Davenport, Washington, was an assistant director of the Spokane Tribe of

See **COLVIN, 8**

CONSTITUTION DAY

McMorris Rodgers delivers 600 copies of America’s founding document to regional students

By Orion Donovan Smith
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON – Wednesday is Constitution Day, which commemorates the signing of the United States’ founding document by the delegates to the Con-

stitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.

To mark the occasion, former Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and the leadership institute she launched in June distributed more than 600 copies of the Constitution to schools across Eastern

Washington, the institute announced on Tuesday. The documents are part of kits that also include worksheets and games along with a video message from the retired congresswoman, who ended

See **CONSTITUTION, 6**

JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF NEW YEAR’S EVE MURDER OF COWORKER

By Alexandra Duggan
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A Spokane jury on Tuesday found a 32-year-old guilty of the murder of a man sleeping in his car on New Year’s Eve nearly two years ago.

The jury found that 32-year-old Elijah Harvey, with premeditation, shot and killed 41-year-old Carlos Thomas on Dec. 31, 2023.

Officers responded early in the morning to the parking lot of Parkview Apartments, 1413

E. Seventh Ave. where they found Thomas shot twice in the chest inside his parked Mercedes, where he usually slept.

According to court records, Thomas had worked with Harvey at Safeway. Witness-

es said Harvey was known to “gang bang” and previously called Thomas a racial slur and threatened him, court records say.

After the killing, Harvey

See **HARVEY, 8**

Voters should bring a photo ID and the Spokane County Assessor’s parcel number of the land they own within the boundaries of District 17. If voters forget their parcel number, they can provide their address to vote in the election.

Irrigation district elections are uncommon in Spokane County, but not unheard of, Dunham said.

“I represent several irrigation districts in Spokane County, and

See **HOUSING, 8**

JIM KERSHNER’S THIS DAY IN HISTORY

From 1975: Spokane voters approved a \$3.4 million special levy to develop a new entertainment complex underneath the iconic umbrella dome at Riverfront Park.

The levy needed a 60% majority, and it passed with 63.4%.

The vote represented “a maturing process for Spokane voters showing they are taking a close look at measures rather than voting negatively, regardless of what’s at stake,” said Roger K. Anderson, chairman of Citizens for Riverfront Park.

The plan was to create a “Pavilion Circus,” complete with theaters, food concessions, an ice rink, arcade games, and a “Disneyland-type experience” about Spokane history.

Park architects promised that the former U.S. Pavilion would become a prime tourist attraction.

From 1925: Spokane was hosting a “big flying circus” – an air show – on the upcoming Sunday

Yet one particular group was in “vigorous opposition.”

“The desecration of the Lord’s day under the guise of patriotism should not be allowed any more than the performance of a wild animal circus on Sunday,” said the president of the Spokane Ministerial Association. “I am urging my members to refrain from patronizing such an open violation of sacredness of the day.”

Another minister said he would be “grieved to know” that anyone from his congregation “supported such a proposition by their presence.”

