

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Artie retrieves his toy in the lake waters of the Big Arm Unit of Flathead Lake State Park.
ANGELA SCHNEIDER/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

TRAVEL | FLATHEAD LAKE IN MONTANA

AUTUMN ROAD TRIP

A scenic drive through the Pacific Northwest in the fall reminds us that the greatest gift we have to give each other is time.

ARTS & LEISURE, 1

SUNDAY, November 2, 2025

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Spokane, Washington

CITY'S HOMELESS REFORMS SHAKE UP COUNCIL RACES

Pivot to criminalization 8 days before election sparks candidate questions about timing, motive

By Emry Dinman
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

There have been a handful of October surprises ahead of this year's Spokane City Council races, those last-minute events that may or may not sway voters in the waning days before the election.

A lawsuit attempting to disqualify a candidate from the ballot, alleging inadequate residency. An attack ad incorrectly claiming to be paid for by unions supporting the candidate being attacked.

But Monday's reforms to the city's homelessness laws – a significant pivot towards criminalization by politicians who had until now mostly resisted using tickets and arrests to address the issue – may be the most interesting wrinkle before the final ballots are cast on Tuesday.

Homelessness remains top of mind for voters in Spokane, ahead of crime and cost of living, according to the latest Greater Spokane Incorporated biannual survey

See **VOTERS, 6**



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Jerry Martinez, with his dog Lilly, sits on a park bench Tuesday in Mission Park. Martinez said he has been homeless for more than a year and finds Mission Park to be safer than roaming downtown Spokane.

State: Hospital's missteps cost child's life

Sacred Heart failed to follow its own protocols, putting patients at risk

By Amanda Sullender
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Editor's note: This story includes details of a child's self-harm and suicide attempts.

It took the staff at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center 11 minutes after they discovered a suicidal girl was missing from her monitored room last April to trigger a hospital-wide alarm.

In that span, on April 13, Sarah Niyimbona, age 12, had reached the top of a hospital parking garage where she jumped to her death as security guards raced to find her.

A state Department of Health investigation found staff miscommunication led to those minutes of inaction that could have stopped the outcome.

Obtained through records requests by The Spokesman-Review, the full DOH investigation found Providence failed to follow its own policies, which put patients

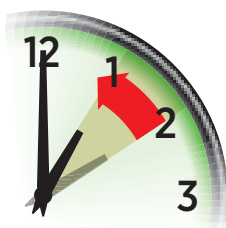
See **SARAH, 8**

RICH LANDERS: HUNTERS MUST PASS FARM DOGS' SNIFF TEST

OUTDOORS: From purebreds to mutts, farm dogs are among the most memorable characters in rural areas. **NEWS, 10**

DID YOU REMEMBER TO FALL BACK?

Daylight saving time ended at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.



BEEF BACKLASH



TYLER TJOMSLAND/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Cattle rancher Annabelle Schmidt stops to smile for a photo as she rides her horse Cleo while checking on cattle Friday in Deer Park.

Ranchers feel sting as president's social media sparks sudden drop in cattle prices, threatening families' future

By Thomas Clouse
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Rising beef prices helped Annabelle Schmidt to convince her grandfather that she could follow his footsteps and become the sixth generation of family to raise cattle on Green Bluff.

Schmidt, 21, said she first remembers working for her grandfather, 63-year-old Michael Schmidt, when she was 10 or 11.

"He needed a little extra help. I said, 'Let me go with you,'" she said of her grandfather. "I spent

the whole summer doing everything he was doing. We moved cattle, everything under the sun. I loved being around cattle – just every part of it."

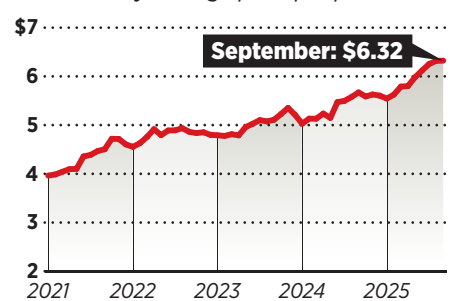
She attended high school at Gonzaga Preparatory School and started college. But she yearned for the early mornings and dusty afternoons.

"I went to college for a semester, but I just had a longing in my heart," she said. "I wanted to be on the ranch. I just knew in my

See **BEEF, 6**

Ground beef price

U.S. monthly average price per pound



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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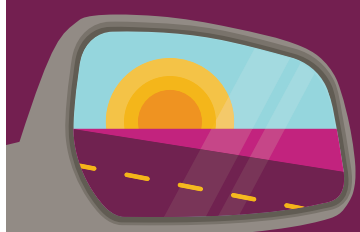
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