



SATURDAY, November 29, 2025 143rd VOL., ISSUE 195 - EST. MAY 19, 1883 Spokane, Washington

Future of Ritzville hospital in doubt

State audit says East Adams Rural Healthcare facility lost \$12.2 million between 2021 and 2023

By Amanda Sullender
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The future of East Adams Rural Healthcare remains precarious, according to a state auditor's report released this week.

Though a plan recently was approved to save the Ritzville hospital, East Adams remains at risk of closure. Former administrators allegedly kept the hospital district board in the dark about the hospital's faltering finances for years.

The state audit found the hospital lost \$12.2 million between 2021 and 2023. Losses increased over the course of those three years: \$2.6 million in 2021, \$3.1 million in 2022 and \$6.5 million

in 2023. The three-year period also found a precipitous decline of its cash-on-hand reserves, which estimates how long a hospital can continue running without more revenue coming

in. According to the audit, those reserves dropped from 189 days in 2021 to 25 days in 2023. The state audit said the reserves dropped further to 10 days in

See **HOSPITAL, 5**

BLACK FRIDAY COMEBACK?

HUNDREDS LINE UP AT SPOKANE STORES FOR DEALS BEFORE DAWN

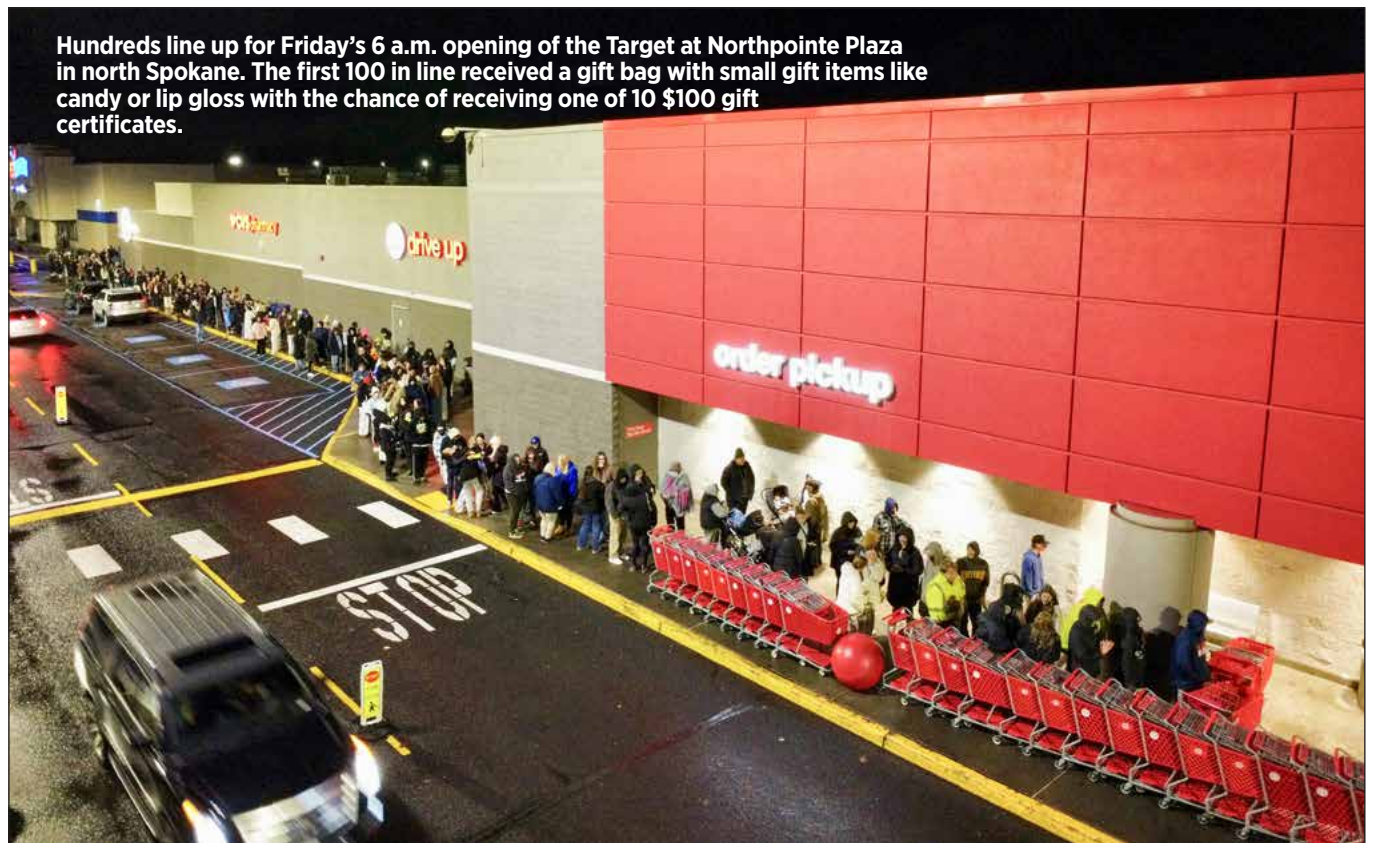
By Monica Carrillo-Casas
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

If you thought the Black Friday frenzy had died down, several stores across town proved otherwise Friday morning.

Hundreds of people lined up before dawn, chasing in-store-only deals that brought back early-2000s shopping nostalgia.

At Target, nearly 400 shoppers waited outside, some as early as 11 p.m. Thursday, hoping to snag a coveted swag bag. The bags, handed out to the first 100 customers, were packed with freebies, and 10 of them included a \$100 gift card.

Sisters Abby Scott and Summer Williams said that after Thanksgiving dinner, they drove



Hundreds line up for Friday's 6 a.m. opening of the Target at Northpointe Plaza in north Spokane. The first 100 in line received a gift bag with small gift items like candy or lip gloss with the chance of receiving one of 10 \$100 gift certificates.

by the Target at 9770 N. Newport Highway around 11 p.m. and were surprised to see a line forming at the entrance.

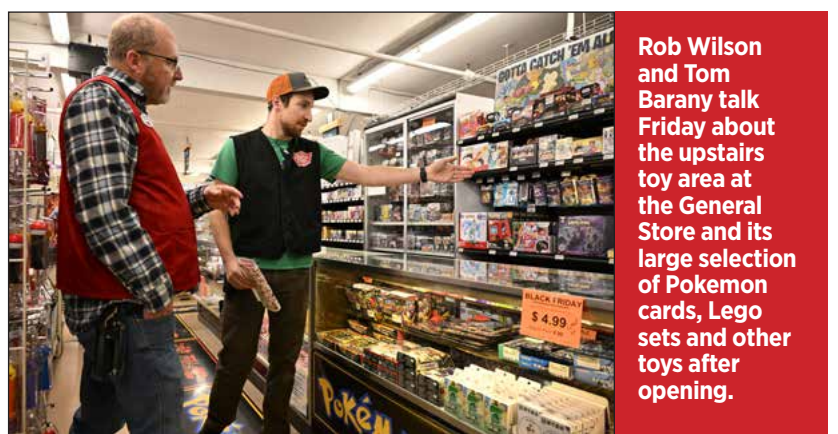
"We were like, 'Dang, we should probably stay,'" Scott said.

Scott said they hurried home for blankets and extra jackets before heading back to the store, which opened at 6 a.m.

It was their first Black Friday in person, she added, since they typically stick to online deals.

At Kohl's at NorthTown Mall, roughly 200 people waited outside before the store's opening at 5 a.m., many hoping to snag the special giveaway. Each store handed out a "Kohl's Cash" gift to its first 200 shoppers, and 10 of

See **SHOPPING, 5**



Rob Wilson and Tom Barany talk Friday about the upstairs toy area at the General Store and its large selection of Pokemon cards, Lego sets and other toys after opening.

PHOTOS BY JESSE TINSLEY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON, D.C., NATIONAL GUARD SHOOTINGS

SHOOTING SUSPECT HAS TIES TO BELLINGHAM

Rahmanullah Lakanwal resided in Washington state with wife, five children

Seattle Times

Two National Guard members were shot Wednesday in Washington, D.C. The motives of the 29-year-old suspected shooter, who had been living in Bellingham, remain unclear.

Here's what we know:

The victims

The two National Guard members, shot Wednesday afternoon a few blocks from the White House, were identified as Andrew Wolfe, 24, and Sarah Beckstrom, 20, both members of the West Virginia National Guard.

Beckstrom died Thursday of her injuries, West Virginia Gov.

Patrick Morrissey announced.

"She answered the call to serve, stepped forward willingly, and carried out her mission with the strength and character that define the very best of the West Virginia National Guard," Morrissey posted on X. "Today, we honor her bravery and her sacrifice as we mourn the loss of a young woman who gave everything she had in defense of others."

Wolfe was in critical condition.

The suspect

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, a

See **GUARD, 5**



Mourners set up a makeshift memorial of for two National Guard service members near the Farragut West Metro station on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST