

GETTING THERE

Transit plan trades cuts for expansion

STA considers removing Peaceful Valley service, adding routes in Mead and Hillyard

By Cannon Barnett THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW The Spokane Transit Authority is considering removing bus service from Peaceful Valley in 2026, which would trigger a cascade of route changes across the city. Part of the transit authority's annual service revisions, staff also are proposing extending routes in Hillyard and Mead. The plans, which would impact under 2% of total services, are open for public comment until Dec. 15 and ultimately will be approved or denied by transit CEO Karl Otterstrom in March. If approved, bus services could begin changing in May. Routes 20, 23, 223 and 33 - Cancellation of Peaceful Valley service To take effect September 2026, STA proposed halting the every-30-minute bus service through Peaceful Valley, leaving Route 20 riders in the area to existing stops along Riverside Avenue. Twenty stops along Clarke Avenue and Main Street See STA, 6

EMERGING ELVES

Rogers High School turns woodshop club into toy workshop for Christmas Bureau

Rogers High School carpentry club students have been making wooden toolboxes filled with wood toys for the Christmas Bureau for the last two months. From left, sitting: Zoe Kopplin, 15, Ryder Curtis, 14. Back: Aron Beach, 18, Brady Hoffman, 15, Dennis Daranutsa, 18, Antonio Huerta, 17, and Donald Reedy, 17.



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

By Nina Culver FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Students in the Woodshop Club at Rogers High School have been working for months to make wooden tools, tool boxes, cars, reindeer and sleighs to be given to children at the Christmas Bureau when it opens later this week.

Teacher Bryan Rice said one of his volunteers, Jerry Schmidt, suggested having the club members make things for the Christmas Bureau.

"It was his idea to do all this," he said.

Schmidt, a retired woodshop teacher, said he's been



CHRISTMAS FUND • 2025

RAISED: \$122,706 GOAL: \$600,000 HOW TO DONATE: NEWS, 7

See CHRISTMAS BUREAU, 7

OPERATION SANTA BRINGS JOY, RELIEF TO FAMILIES STRUGGLING WITH ADVERSITY

By Monica Carrillo-Casas THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

KETTLE FALLS - In a small northeast Washington town, community members come together each year to make sure every Christmas wish comes

true. They call it "Operation Santa." "It's a very emotional thing for me because I was raised poor and didn't have much," said Charles Omit, who runs the community store. "It's all about the kids."

Operation Santa, a community store in rural Kettle Falls, delivers smiles, relief and holiday cheer to families across northeast Washington. Because everything is free, the store has

See SANTA, 7



MONICA CARRILLO-CASAS/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Charles Omit takes a phone call from a local resident wanting to donate her cabinet on Friday.

COUGS HEADING TO BOISE FOR POTATO BOWL VS. UTAH STATE

WSU will close its season against a future Pac-12 foe on Boise State's blue field.

SPORTS, 1

GOV. FERGUSON FOCUSES ON CUTS TO BALANCE BUDGET

Washington state Democrats are in a bind over increasing taxes or tightening belt.

NW, 1

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER THIS WINTER

Gift-giving isn't everyone's forte, but spreading joy through acts of kindness is a present everybody is happy to get.

NW, 6

Pearl Harbor echo lives on

Families gather to honor local survivors, preserve fading chapter of history

Vina Mikkelsen, wife of Pearl Harbor survivor Denis, watches as a member of her family adds a wreath to Spokane's memorial monument to the attack.



CAROLINE SAINT JAMES/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

By Caroline Saint James THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A lei-clad crowd of veterans, widows, children and friends gathered at the Pearl Harbor Survivors Memorial Stone on Sunday to mark the Dec. 7, 1941, tragedy.

None of the region's survivors are living, though retired U.S. Air Force Col. Brian Newberry read each of their names in his address.

"Eighty-four years ago, in sunny Hawaii on a Sunday like today ... soldiers and sailors experienced the first attack of the greatest conflict this globe would experience, called the Greatest Generation," Newberry, now the CEO of Girl Scouts of

See PEARL HARBOR, 7

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