

HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW SECTION

winter sports '25-26

MEAD SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES NEW DISTRICT POLICY

Guidelines limit classroom decor, teacher comments that espouse personal beliefs to ensure neutral environment

By Elena Perry
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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prints from the Washington State School Directors' Association, spurred concern from the Mead teacher's union about its implementation and scope. The policy and accompanying procedure surround "staff expression," prohibiting classroom decorations that "advocate for

or promote their personal beliefs (whether those beliefs are political, social, religious, etc)," the procedure reads. The new rules are meant to ensure classrooms are neutral environments where kids

See MEAD, 9

TEAM MORRISON

Addison Wells Morrison, right, enters her fourth season as a starter for Mead basketball, where her father, Adam, starred more than two decades ago.

JESSE TINSLEY/
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

MEAD

THURSDAY, December 11, 2025

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Spokane, Washington

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See MEAD, 9

Spokane County golf courses to cost a little extra scratch next year

By Nick Gibson
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Chipping onto Spokane County greens will cost a few more greenbacks next year. The Spokane County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to increase charges at golf courses owned and operated by Spokane County, includ-

ing Liberty Lake, Latah Creek and MeadowWood golf courses. Every available pass, from 9-hole twilight hour rounds to all-access season passes, will see an increase for 2026. Trisha Truett, finance manager for Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf, said the

See GOLF, 11

PLASTIC PAIN

AS COST OF GROCERY BAGS INCREASES TO 12 CENTS IN NEW YEAR, WSU STUDY FINDS THE BAG FEE IS CREATING MORE PLASTIC WASTE

By Mitchell Roland and Amanda Sullender
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



“It’s really bad. I have got bags in bags in bags. I’ve got them all hung up on my kitchen wall.”
Lisa Vilella

When getting her groceries, Lisa Vilella almost always forgets her reusable bags at home. “I think this is the only time I’ve ever remembered to bring one,” she said coming out of Grocery Outlet in downtown Spokane earlier this month. “It’s really bad. I have got bags in bags in bags. I’ve got them all hung up on my kitchen wall.” Even though she brought one reusable bag, Vilella still had to buy two new plastic bags because her groceries did not fit in the one she brought. A recent Washington State University study suggests

See PLASTIC, 11

Lisa Vilella loads groceries into her car at Grocery Outlet in downtown Spokane.
JESSE TINSLEY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

PROVIDENCE BROADCASTS SURGERY TO STUDENTS

Several local students got up early to see the open-heart operation, which was performed in Portland.

NEWS, 5

VOLUNTEERS KEY AT HORIZON HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Opportunities to serve take various forms, and coordinator Ruth Wagley makes sure people find their place.

THE VOICE, 1

LOWER LEVEL TRANSFERS MAKING IMPACT FOR EWU

This year’s Eagles feature several former NAIA, junior college and Division III players getting big minutes.

SPORTS, 1

Holiday cheer ready for all

Christmas Bureau is set up and ready to welcome people on Thursday

Christmas Bureau Coordinator Heidi Meany talks to volunteers about the toy room. The Christmas Bureau opens Thursday.



NINA CULVER/FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

By Nina Culver
FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Volunteers gathered at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center Wednesday to be shown the ropes in final preparations before the Christmas Bureau opens to the public Thursday.

The Christmas Bureau is a joint effort by Catholic Charities, Volunteers of America and The Spokesman-Review to provide a grocery store voucher to families in need at Christmas as well as a book and a toy for each child.

They learned how the toy bagging area works, which is stocked with handmade wooden cars and small stuffed animals from the Spokane Chiefs Teddy Bear Toss as bonus gifts while supplies last. They learned how to register families on



CHRISTMAS FUND • 2025

RAISED: \$212,165.15

GOAL: \$600,000

HOW TO DONATE: NEWS, 9

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