

GETTING THERE

STA sales tax renewal faces scrutiny

Spokane Transit Authority's 0.2% sales tax request is on the primary ballot. If approved, it would continue a rate first approved by voters in 2016 that helped pay for City Line and the West Plains Transit Center.



COLIN MULVANY / THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Advocates say levy needed to maintain service; critics say agency is overfunded

By Nick Gibson THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The Spokane Transit Authority wants voters to renew a transportation sales tax this year, but some critics worry the measure could compete with a potential public safety proposal. Spokane County voters in the Public Transportation Benefit Area will decide in the August primary if they're willing to maintain regional transportation sales tax rates for another 20 years. If approved, Public Transportation Benefit Area Proposition 1 will extend a 0.2% sales tax first approved by voters in 2016. Around 75% of the agency's operating revenues come from sales tax proceeds. The sunset of the current total rate of 0.8% in 2028 prompted the transportation agency's governing board to put the question to voters, but not before a prolonged debate. The benefit area, where the tax for STA is collected, includes Spokane, Spokane Valley, Cheney,

See TAX, 8

TRANSIT AUTHORITY PLANS NEW OPERATIONS HUB

Agency purchases properties from convicted rapist for future dispatch, admin facility

By Thomas Clouse THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The Spokane Transit Authority is moving forward with expansion plans at its campus, buying property for an administration building, possibly starting in 2028. STA bought for \$1.46 million two properties from convicted rapist Arlin Jordin, who continues to manage at least one rental property in Spokane from prison. STA also bought the neighboring building, at 1310 W. Boone Ave., in December 2025 for \$1.42 million. Up until 2022, it too, had been owned by Jordin. The three buildings, with a

combined purchase price of \$2.88 million, are located across from the STA bus barn at 1231 W. Boone Ave. Crews boarded up the windows of the buildings a couple months ago and erected a fence around them. "We have been interested in these properties for quite some time," STA spokeswoman Carly Cortright said. "We will be demolishing those properties within the next few months." The properties purchased in March at 1302 and 1308 W. Boone Avenue were assessed by the county at about \$1.2 million. The land includes a four-story, 12-unit apartment building built

See STA, 8



JESSE TINSLEY / THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Transit Authority has purchased for more than \$2 million the three properties on the north side of West Boone Avenue, opposite of STA's main offices. The properties are intended for future development of more office space.

BROTHERS WHO DIED IN MILL IMPLOSION REMEMBERED

At a memorial in Longview, more than 500 people paid respects to siblings who grew up together, graduated from the same tech school and worked together. NW, 1

PAINTER CELEBRATES REGION'S BEAUTY

Artist LR Montgomery shares works at "Our Amazing NW Natural Areas" gallery showing at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. NW, 6

ASK DR. UNIVERSE: HOW DO PLANETS GET THEIR COLOR?

Washington State University astronomer Michael Allen helps explain why Earth and its solar neighbors look the way they do. NW, 6

PULLUP KING

PECHT CELEBRATES 43RD BIRTHDAY BY BLASTING PAST GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR GRAPPLER PULLUPS



DAN PELLE / FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

After completing 31 grappler pullups in less than one minute, Lance Pecht strains on his 32nd attempt Sunday at Body Unlimited Fitness in Spokane Valley. Pecht beat the previous Guinness World Record of 29.

By Megan Howard THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Most people might spend their birthday relaxing with their loved ones by lounging by the river with a beer in hand. Most don't decide to break fitness world records on their special day. Lance Pecht, a former Whitworth University basketball player, spent his 43rd birthday Sunday at Body Unlimited Fitness, attempting the Guinness World Record for the most grappler pullups in one minute. "I worked hard for 43 years of life," he said. "Why am I not the best in the world at anything?" While pushing the body to failure is not the typical idea of fun for most people, the feeling of accomplishment after is what Pecht said he finds motivating and fun. At 11 a.m., Pecht was set to use two lacrosse balls while he attempted to defeat the previous Guinness World Record of 29 grappler pullups set by Elias Benz in

See PECHT, 10