

State to get \$237M over addictive social media features

Meta to install safety measures for young users

By Mitchell Roland
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

OLYMPIA – Washington will receive \$237 million to settle a lawsuit against the parent company of Facebook and Instagram. The deal is part of a legal action brought by 47 states in what is believed to be the largest consumer protection settlement against the tech industry. Washington Attorney General Nick Brown announced Wednesday the state would receive at least \$237 million, and could receive up to nearly \$339 million over the next decade. Under the agreement, the social media giant has also agreed to implement a swath of new safety features aimed at protecting young users. The additional \$102 million is contingent on the states reaching similar agreements with other social media companies. Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, agreed to pay \$16.7 billion to the states to settle lawsuits filed by the states, along with

See **META, 12**

STATE SUES OVER FEDS BALLOT RULING

Suit was filed alongside 24 other states arguing USPS doesn't have legal authority to decide which ballots to mail. **NEWS, 5**

SPOKANE HOSTED FIRST U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

The event, which grew over the next 80 years into the premier tournament in the sport, started with a classic. **SPORTS, 1**

FURTHER REVIEW: THE GREAT SHOCK

On Aug. 31, 1886, Charleston, South Carolina, was struck by the biggest earthquake recorded on the East Coast. **THE VOICE, 7**



Spokane seeks to smooth road ahead for fire victims

City extends lowered demolition fees, eyes other reforms to ease rebuilding

By Emry Dinman
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The Spokane City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved formalizing lower demolition fees for buildings damaged in the Spokane Complex fires, an early step as the city considers other ways to ease

the burden to rebuild. The city had already begun reducing demolition fees for homes damaged by the Spokane Complex fires under the mayor's emergency declaration while the council was on hiatus earlier this month. The council's action Wednesday continues the lowered fees past when that declaration would

expire. Typical demolition fees can range as high as \$450, which the city has lowered for fire-affected buildings to a flat fee of \$28.50 while also waiving its additional processing surcharges. See **DEMOLITION, 9**

“This team knocked it out of the park. ... If that team was not in sync, it could have gone a whole different way.”
Reiner Hershaw, Spokane's water and hydroelectric director

‘WATER IS OUR LIFELINE’

Early analysis suggests for every home lost, another 10 would have burned if firefighters were forced to abandon the line due to lack of hydrosupply

By Emry Dinman
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A lot went wrong three years ago in Lahaina, Hawaii, that went right in Spokane on Aug. 1. Even before reinforcements arrived from across the country and beyond, responding firefighters from Spokane County reportedly outnumbered those available in Maui in 2023. The winds that turned the Spokane Complex fires sideways peaked with gusts as high as 45 mph; three years ago, the winds that whipped the Lahaina fires were 91 mph in some places. The fire not only grew faster as a result, but the gale also grounded firefighting helicopters. “It was a hopeless battle to begin with,” said Johnnie Varona, a firefighter who grew up in Medical Lake and had since moved to Lahaina. Varona evacuated that day three years ago with his children, unable to find



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW
Blake Robins, of the city of Spokane Water Department, stands in the valve room of the burnt but still functioning Indian Hills water tank.

See **WATER, 2**

Marching band ends its UW duet

Amid conference realignment, WSU musicians not attending Apple Cup

Jimmy Kimmel joins in with the WSU Marching Band before the first half of the Jimmy Kimmel L.A. Bowl on Dec. 17, 2022, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.



TYLER TJOMSLAND/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

By Nick Gibson
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Sometimes you walk away from the table because you simply don't like “them apples.” The 2026 Apple Cup will mark the end of a century-old tradition: a joint and competitive performance of the Washington State University and University of Washington marching bands. The Cougars will not send their 260-member marching band to the rivalry game on Sept. 6 in Husky Stadium, citing logistics issues, as first reported by WSU's independent student newspaper the Daily Evergreen. Fans and alumni of both universities received little to no communication about what will

See **BAND, 9**