THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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Baumgartner presses for Nvidia probe

Congressman vows continued scrutiny of chipmaker's China ties despite Trump's intervention

By Orion Donovan Smith
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON – After President Donald Trump personally intervened to help Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang get his job back, the Eastern Washington congressman leading an effort to restrict the sale of U.S. semiconductors to China pledged on Tuesday to pursue rigorous oversight of the chipmaker and its embattled leader.

Rep. Michael Baumgartner, R-Spokane, sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, whose leaders are scheduled to question Huang behind closed doors at the Capitol on Dec. 1. Nvidia's board reinstated Huang as CEO on Monday, less than two weeks after he resigned and admitted to having affairs with multiple women, one of whom the U.S. government identified as a spy working for China's main foreign intelligence agency.

"I remain very concerned that, either knowingly or unknowingly, Jensen Huang may have been manipulated by Chinese intelligence to sell advanced and

See **BAUMGARTNER, 10**

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

READY TO SPEND, SPOKANE?

Area businesses hope shoppers open wallets, purses as holidays approach

By Thomas Clouse and Megan Howard
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane consumers and area retailers enter the holiday season riding a surprisingly strong national economy. But how local store owners fare, according to local and national experts, will largely depend on whether well-heeled shoppers continue to open their wallets.

The National Retail Federation predicts consumer spending during November and December to equal $1.013 trillion, a 4.2% increase from 2025 spending.

Despite this increase, the federation found that 56% of consumers say the economy will affect their spending.

Spokane's numerous local businesses are prepared for what many say is their busy season in November and December. While it's early in the shopping rush, several businesses said local consumer spending is beginning to trend upward.

Jillian Joseph, the owner of the fair-trade world market Kizuri in downtown, said sales this holiday season started off slow, but she believes it has to do with the extraordinary circumstances Spokane dealt with this summer after the

See **SHOPPING, 9**



AUGUST FRANK/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Julie Arnold and Dale Arnold walk through Chic & Shab on Thursday in Spokane.

Officer faces criminal probe over abuse allegations

Burnworth placed on paid leave, ordered to give up firearms

By Alexandra Duggan
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A Spokane police officer who was suspended and ordered to surrender his weapons is facing a criminal investigation following an ex-girlfriend's domestic violence allegations.



Burnworth

When the Airway Heights Police Department asked a judge to order senior Spokane police Officer Randy Burnworth to surrender his weapons this summer, they were concerned his ex-girlfriend's reports of the officer's abusive behavior could escalate into something dangerous without intervention.

"An abuser who has access to firearms is 5x more likely to kill his partner," Airway Heights police Officer Justin Davis wrote in a July request for a protection order. "The period surrounding a survivor's separation from an abusive partner ... is recognized as the highest risk period for lethality in domestic violence cases."

Burnworth, a 38-year-old officer who has been with the Spokane Police Department

See **BURNWORTH, 9**

THE COST OF SETTING A THANKSGIVING TABLE

Some experts say sales, promotions may lead to cheaper holiday meals this year

By Thomas Clouse
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Bring on the antacid, stomach bulge and questions about how you broke yet another promise to not overeat on Thanksgiving.

While the holiday revolves around gatherings of family and friends that highlight a table of food, recent inflationary pressures are making it

See **COSTS, 10**

"High diesel prices and a shortage of farm labor have taken a toll on the farm level of the food supply chain."

Faith Parum
Chief deputy economist at the Farm Bureau

COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

RECIPES TO CONSIDER FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

FOOD, 1



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Sports tourism supports 716 jobs in the region.

Dream Bigger

Spokane SPORTS