

O.J. arrest puts Kato Kaelin back in semi-limelight

CLARK COLUMN, B1



RECORD PURSUIT

WSU's Bumpus climbs list of school's top receivers

SPORTS, C1

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THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

METRO EDITION

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WEATHER

PARTLY SUNNY AND MILD

High 70
Low 46
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COMING FRIDAY

7 NAVIGATES CAMPUS BARS

Don't get stuck in the wrong college bar with the wrong crowd. Our guide will help you find your way around the campus bar scene.

7 section

NATION

PLAN TO AID DETAINEES FAILS

Senate narrowly rejects habeas corpus legislation that would have given military detainees the right to protest their detention in federal court.

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BUSINESS

RATE INCREASES ADD UP

Four Washington state lawmakers are intervening on behalf of some of their older constituents who say they're being priced out of long-term care policies.

Page A8

NORTHWEST

POLICE CHIEF FEELS THE HEAT

About 80 people turn out Wednesday night to discuss, question and vent about police and the public in a meeting with Anne Kirkpatrick.

Page B1

SPORTS

NOT BIG BAD WOLF'S FAULT

Outdoors editor Rich Landers has plenty of excuses at the ready for Washington elk hunters.

Page C1

TODAY

BRING ON THE 'NIGHT'

The Actor's Repertory Theatre will take the audience on a "Long Day's Journey into Night" beginning Friday.

Page D1

TO OUR READERS

JOIN US

If you would like to attend one of our daily news meetings, call Patty Franz at (509) 459-5420 for arrangements.

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Lab 'severely deficient'

Russell evidence vials among hundreds destroyed

BY SHAWN VESTAL
Staff writer

Web first
First reported on spokesmanreview.com

An audit of the Washington State Patrol crime lab a month after it lost the blood samples in the Fred Russell case disclosed that lab workers had lost or broken hundreds of blood vials during a transfer between freezers.

The audit also identified problems with record-keeping that then-lab manager Ann Marie Gordon – who resigned in July amid a criminal investigation – told auditors she didn't have time to perform properly.

"WSP policies and required procedures appear to be of secondary concern to lab personnel," the audit report

of Aug. 20, 2004, concludes. "Achievement in top priority areas is commendable. Accurate record-keeping and quarterly auditing as required by Patrol policies and CALEA standards is severely deficient." CALEA is the Commission on Accreditation for Law

See **CRIME LAB, A11**

RUSSELL CASE
What's next
Fred Russell will be back in Whitman County Superior Court today for a hearing on motions before Judge David Frazier.

NUMBER CRUNCHERS



PHOTOS BY DAN PELLE The Spokesman-Review

Garfield Elementary School students Jordan Hamblin, Cayla Crespo and Kalona Cormier vie to be picked to answer a math question by their teacher, Heather Sutherland, on Wednesday. Garfield's enrollment is down this year.

Enrollment drop surprises schools

Loss of 851 students will add to budget problems

BY SARA LEAMING
Staff writer

Spokane Public Schools is serving 851 fewer students than it did last year.

While more students are sure to arrive by the start of next month, the enrollment decline is still more than double what district officials were expecting. That means less money from the state, adding to existing budget problems in Eastern Washington's largest school system.

And some teachers who were hired temporarily – but who may have hoped for permanent positions – will be sent home.

"We could not predict this," said Mark Anderson, associate superintendent for

Web first
First reported on spokesmanreview.com

school support services. "It's troubling." Preliminary figures from the fourth day of school show an enrollment of 28,050 full-time students, for a loss of 851 students or about 3 percent.

No one is sure what caused the exodus. District officials blame changing demographics, in part, citing the growing number of families moving from urban to suburban areas, as well as the loss of affordable housing.

See **SCHOOLS, A11**



Garfield teacher Heather Sutherland points out a math problem Wednesday for her first- and second-grade students.

\$1.7 million

Potential budget hole faced by the district because of an overall enrollment shortage.

200

Fewer full-time students in the freshman class in Spokane high schools.

100

Fewer full-time students than projected in the district's senior class.

Diocese sex case lawyers cut bills

Proposal aims to end fee dispute

BY JOHN STUCKE
Staff writer

Lawyers in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane bankruptcy case have agreed to shave about 5 percent from their legal bills, freeing up an extra \$400,000 for payouts to clergy sex abuse victims.

The agreement, if approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Patricia Williams, would end a fee dispute among several law firms and the U.S. Trustee's Office centering on how much the firms should be paid.

With an independent trustee preparing to distribute money to victims, the lawyers have been reshaping their fee requests – one of the last remaining issues in a complex and controversial bankruptcy filed in December 2004.

Bishop William Skylstad brought the diocese into bankruptcy protection to shield its assets and parishes from an onslaught of civil trials and claims stemming from childhood sex abuse by priests and other diocese agents decades ago.

Spokane was the third diocese in the United States to file for bankruptcy protection. A plan to keep the diocese intact and end the bankruptcy came together after a group of priests and laity calling itself the Association of Parishes agreed to contribute about \$10 million to the final \$48 million settlement.

Money continues to be raised from the pews to meet that pledge.

See **DIocese, A11**

@ On the Web: Find background information on the diocese bankruptcy at spokesmanreview.com/sections/diocese

Senate GOP kills troop-leave bill

Plan likely Democrats' last chance to change Iraq policy this year

BY SHAILAGH MURRAY AND JONATHAN WEISMAN
Washington Post

WASHINGTON – Senate Republicans on Wednesday rejected a bipartisan proposal to lengthen the home leaves of U.S. troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, derailing a measure that war opponents viewed as one of the best chances to force President Bush to accelerate a redeployment of

forces.

The proposal, sponsored by Sens. James Webb, D-Va., and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., failed on a 56-44 vote, with 60 votes needed for passage. A last-minute campaign by the Defense Department and the White House to kill the measure won over Sen. John Warner, R-Va., an influential voice on defense policy who had voted with Webb and Hagel

See **IRAQ, A11**

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