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THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 | www.spokesman.com

HOW REAL IS YOUR NEWS? THAT DEPENDS.

News has a way of helping readers separate fact from fiction. **But what happens when news is fiction?** Some fake stories of 2016 reaffirmed people's biases: "FBI agent suspected in Hillary email leak found dead in appar-

ent murder-suicide," while others were outright outrageous: "Woman Arrested For Defecating On Boss' Desk After Winning The Lottery." In a time of "alternative facts," **consumers must be on the lookout.**

MORE ON FAKE NEWS, PAGES 10-11

Populist surges torture truth

Expert: Facts at risk in times of upheaval

By Chad Sokol
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Some in Donald Trump's inner circle have likened the new president to Andrew Jackson. A couple of weeks ago, Trump even had a portrait of Jackson - America's first populist leader - hung in the Oval Office as a source of inspiration.

Whether Trump's social and political leanings are anything like Old Hickory's is a point of debate. But their paths to the White House do share an important feature: Both were accompanied by a resurgence of fake news.

Just as Jackson's wife became a target of salacious lies in the 1820s - one newspaper labeled her "a convicted

See **POPULIST, 10**



Breitbart false tale victimizes Idaho city

SHAWN VESTAL



Staff columnist

It's a perfect model for how to sell a false story.

Exaggerate wildly. Manipulate statistics egregiously. Double down on lies. Apply grotesque, racist stereotypes. When people who know the facts tell you you're wrong, accuse them of being part of a globalist conspiracy. Bonus points if you can get an alternative-universe lawmaker or two, like Idaho's Heather Scott, to spread your tale.

That was the pattern of propaganda peddled by the alt-right echo chamber Breitbart News last year in its "coverage" of a ginned-up "Muslim refugee crisis" in Twin Falls, Idaho. Breitbart co-founder and former chairman Steve Bannon is perhaps the most influential

See **VESTAL, 11**

Both sides grilled on order

Judges ask pointed questions probing legality of travel directive

By Jim Camden
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The nationwide temporary halt to President Trump's order limiting travel from seven mostly Muslim nations remained in place Tuesday while a three-judge federal appeals court panel weighed the limits of presidential power.

Read more
UW students file suit against travel order.
News, 12

The panel said it will make its ruling "as soon as possible"

on the federal government's request to throw out or at least scale back the temporary restraining order issued last Friday in Seattle.

See **TRAVEL, 16**

PENCE BREAKS TIE TO OK DEVOS



DeVos

Betsy DeVos squeaked through the confirmation process to become secretary of education on Tuesday with the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence.

It was the first time a vice president's tie-breaking vote was needed to confirm a presidential Cabinet appointment. Despite the win, DeVos emerged bruised from the opposition to her nomination by teachers unions, civil rights activists and half the Senate. **NEWS, 3**

There's one alternative to the truth and a difference between beliefs, facts

ROB CURLEY



Editor

Asking someone you've just met what they do for a living is one of those super-safe, small-talk conversation starters.

A few years ago, I began answering that fairly benign question differently.

"I get paid to tell the truth." I work with a whole bunch of people who can answer the ex-

act same way. Oh sure, we make mistakes. And when we do, we correct them.

That's a key difference between what some people call fake news and what is actually news published by a legitimate news organization. An error is an error. Trustworthy news

sources acknowledge errors and publish corrections.

The Spokesman-Review runs its corrections on Page 2. We run way more than we'd like. But we're also honest about them.

So, let's get back to the truth.

See **CURLEY, 11**

POST FALLS GIRL KILLED WHEN TRAIN HITS CAR

A 15-year-old died Tuesday in Idaho when a locomotive struck the auto she was riding in at an uncontrolled crossing. **NEWS, 5**

TOURISM APP HELPS USERS EXPLORE WASHINGTON

The free ScenicWA 365 aims to assist people in planning road trips in and around Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver and Olympia. **NEWS, 14**



LAW WOULD NIX BAN ON SUNSCREEN IN SCHOOL

Without a note from a doctor and a parent, state law forbids students to bring sunblock to school. A new bill would change that. **NEWS, 5**

SEATTLE CUTS TIES WITH WELLS FARGO OVER OIL PIPELINE

The Seattle City Council voted unanimously to divest in Wells Fargo over its role as a lender to the Dakota Access Pipeline project. **NEWS, 8**

Afternoon snow ▲ 31 ▼ 29



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