



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

'SEWARD'S FOLLY'

155 YEARS LATER

Before Alaska joined the union as the 49th state, it was "Russian America."

FURTHER REVIEW: NEWS, 5

TUESDAY, March 29, 2022

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Spokesman-Review reporter Eli Francovich is in Eastern Europe to cover stories with ties to Spokane. Francovich's articles will appear throughout the week. His trip was paid for largely by Spokesman-Review readers who have donated to the Community Journalism Fund and through the newspaper's Northwest Passages event series. To help support this trip and similar newsroom efforts, contributions can be made at www.spokesman.com/thanks.

'CONSTANT BOMBS'

in embattled Kyiv says Post Falls counselor and veteran

By Eli Francovich
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WARSAW, Poland – The first thing he noticed upon arriving in Ukraine's shattered capital of Kyiv was the stationary train.

"One entire train of the metro isn't even moving," said Jared Malone. "And it's because people are living on it. You know, all their kitchen supplies are in there, blankets, towels, people sleeping on the floor."

Malone is a Marine veteran who now lives in Post Falls and works as a counselor. He arrived in Ukraine on March 22 and is working with a church in Lviv, a western city mostly spared from fighting. But on Friday he took an overnight train to Kyiv, with plans of bringing a family back west.

He knew Kyiv would be intense. He served two combat tours in Iraq so he's familiar with war. But what he's seen over the course of three days shocked him.

The streets of the country's capital city are covered in glass, the consequence of shock waves from bombs. Residents leave their windows open so concussions don't break them. The roads are nearly empty other than military checkpoints, one every 200 meters, he estimated.

"It's like something out of an apocalyptic movie," he said.

At each checkpoint he was interrogated, his passport examined, his motives questioned. Soldiers searched through his phone

See **KYIV, 10**



Jared Malone, of Post Falls, stands in front of a destroyed apartment complex Saturday in Kyiv, Ukraine.

COURTESY OF JARED MALONE

Nearly 4 million have fled Ukraine. Will exodus slowdown last?

By Srdjan Nedeljkovic and Jamey Keaten
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDYKA, Poland – A slowdown for good or a temporary lull during the storm of war?

While the number of refugees who have flooded out of Ukraine nears 4 million, fewer people have crossed the border in recent days. Border guards, aid agencies and refugees themselves say Russia's unpredictable war on Ukraine offers few signs of whether it's just a pause or a permanent drop-off.

Some Ukrainians are sticking it out to fight or help defend their country. Others have left their homes but are staying elsewhere in Ukraine to wait and see how the winds of war will blow. Still others are elderly or ill and need extra help moving anywhere. And some remain, as one refugee put it, because "homeland is homeland."

In the first two weeks after

See **EXODUS, 10**

MAN ACCUSED OF MURDER CLAIMS IN COURT HE'S BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN JAIL

Ellis severely attacked fellow patient at Eastern State Hospital

By Emma Epperly
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A man accused of killing a fellow patient at Eastern State Hospital earlier this month made rambling threats during a court appearance Monday.

Martay L. Ellis, 24, was arrested last week after police say he attacked Daniel J. Zellmer, on March 17.

Ellis punched, kicked and heel-stomped Zellmer multiple times in a common area of their ward, according to court documents and Eastern State Hospital.

Zellmer, who had multiple skull fractures from the attack, died on Saturday.

At a court hearing Monday afternoon, Ellis, who is charged with second-degree murder, said he was being "held hostage" and that he would sue everyone for holding him in jail. He then accused someone attending the hearing via Zoom of being a terrorist.

As Spokane County Superior Court Commissioner John Stine maintained his bond at \$750,000, Ellis asked if the

See **THREATS, 7**

City Council approves \$2.4M for new police vehicles

Despite officers' concerns, fleet to include electric models

By Greg Mason
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane City Council members voted Monday to authorize more than \$2 million in federal funding toward the purchase of up to 35 new police vehicles, including eight electric models.

The number represents just over half of the 64 the Spokane

Police Department requested to keep pace with the department's 10-year vehicle plan to replace an aging fleet. The plan would have seen those cycled in for 47 vehicles with more than 80,000 miles – including 29 with over 100,000 miles – as well as 17 with mileage counts between 65,000 to 80,000 miles, Spokane police

Maj. Michael McNab said earlier this month. The older vehicles would then get reassigned to lower levels of use within the fleet until their end of life.

Council members authorized \$2,374,000 for the 35 police vehicles along with \$3,707,869 for four Spokane Fire Department

See **EV, 7**

PIZZA RITA STORES ACQUIRE NEW OWNERSHIP

The longtime, Spokane-based pizza chain has been picked up by a buyer described as "a seasoned executive in the pizza industry." **NEWS, 8**

FIVE-STAR POINT GUARD PICKS ARKANSAS OVER GONZAGA

Anthony Black commits to Razorbacks four days after they ousted the Bulldogs from the NCAA Tournament. **SPORTS, 1**

