

# Spokane streets fill up for first night

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Since New Years Eve of 2001, First Night Spokane has drawn upwards of one hundred thousand people to the streets of downtown Spokane. Since its debut it has been the largest and most extensive welcoming of the New Year in the Inland Northwest, with roughly thirty thousand people per year attending.

The event is a celebration of largely local arts, from visual art to music. The Spokane Symphony and many different bands, with styles ranging from jazz to rock, light up rooms and venues across town. Art galleries open their doors for speculation and admiration of paintings and sculptures, and on-the-spot ice sculpting is a highlight of the downtown scene. More art is seen in the skies at midnight when the fireworks show illuminates Spokane, one of the best fireworks shows seen in the Inland Northwest.

But all of this is too adult and sophisticated, as it would seem, and many teens are driven away from First Night in search of more traditional New Year festivities. After all, New Year's Day is not a school day.

"One thing about our event is that we try to target all events and demographics, but teens are definitely the hardest to draw in," Chris Martin, executive director of First Night, said.

In the past, First Night held the Eleventh Hour at the convention center, an event aimed completely at teens with live music. At the same time First night held the Rail Jam, a snowboarding competition of forty snowboarders held on the lawns of Canada Island, attracted a larger teenage crowd. The event expects three to four thousand viewers this year, making it the biggest plug for the younger demographic.

"We felt like we were competing against ourselves with the Eleventh Hour and the snowboard Rail Jam," Martin said. The

result is that Eleventh Hour has been abandoned in hopes of promoting the Rail Jam further, possibly taking some entertainment components of the Eleventh Hour and adding them to the boarding competition.

First Night crew is attempting to gain teen interest by also offering a wide variety of art and music, both traditional and eccentric.

Improvisational comedy is a cornerstone in the entertainment. Blue Door Theater will be doing comedy based on audience suggestions all night long. Unfortunately, Comedy Sportz, a former improvisational comedy regular, will not be performing this year.

As far as visual arts, there are many unique, hands-on events. A popular event from past years is having people redecorate a used car at the STA Plaza. Last year, Spokaneites souped-up a car with mosaic tiles. A chalk graffiti wall is also offered for walker-bys, especially teens, to express themselves with spray paint.

Another draw for the younger audience in the 48-Hour Film Festival, put on by Spokane's own North by Northwest. High school and college-aged students compete by making a film given a line of dialogue, a prop, and a general theme. That, and only forty-eight hours to film, edit and submit a final product. What follows is a tough competition of creative and impressive short films.

"First Night Spokane is a great opportunity for families to come and witness the dramatic changes in downtown Spokane. A night of festivities allows them to do things that they might not do otherwise and truly enjoy their downtown" Mike Edwards, former chairman of the Downtown Spokane Partnership, said.

Passes to First Night Spokane cost \$12 before and \$15 the night of the event. They can be obtained at Zip Trip stores, A u n t i e s Bookstore, the River Park Square concierge, and in Spokane Valley, Mountain West Bank.



Graphic by Jaein Yoo

## "Gears" proves splatterific

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ST. GEORGE'S

"Gears of War 2" is the highly anticipated sequel to "Gears of War," an X-Box 360 exclusive from 2006 which combined fast past and visceral close-quarters combat with startlingly good graphics. In tradition, "Gears 2" does everything that its predecessor accomplished and adds on significantly to the multiplayer experience. In a snap judgment I would say "Gears 2" has the best graphics of 2008, and some of the deepest game play as well.

In elaboration on the games qualities, I would suggest that the best metaphor for the game is its primary cast of characters. They are all massive people, steroid fueled body builders with arms as thick as car tires, jaws as square as doors, and dumber than any of the cave dwelling mutants they gun down.

As one of the smarter characters points out in the game, there is no telling how different the plot of the campaign would be if these apes just put on helmets to protect them from the variety of dangerous situations they predictably encounter.

This awesome jock-esque mentality pushes the bounds of masculinity to absurd lengths in the game--a teammate just got blown off his feet and is bleeding to death on the ground? You can of course revive him by slapping him on the shoulder and yelling "Fight like a man you wussy!"

Instead of a traditional bayonet, the machine guns have chainsaws attached to them, a pretty neat attachment that causes so much gore to be sprayed about that the game has an option to turn it off. (The blood splatter can obfuscate the camera lens.)

However, any shortfalls the game has are very minor when compared to the work as a whole, which is supremely playable and fun. It's fast paced, immersive, and I doubt I've yelled so much at my X-Box in a long time during intense fighting.

This game definitely earned its M rating, but as I mentioned there are options to turn down the extreme parts of the game which together could bring it down to a T pretty easily. If you're bored of "Halo" and "Call of Duty" at this point "Gears 2" is an excellent way to pass the time on live.

## Drinking eggs to help your noggin'

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As our calendar pages inevitably turn to December, many of us turn to thoughts of winter break and our respective holidays. An integral aspect of the holiday is food. A majority of people from our generation shy away from baking because it's too complicated or antiquated. But with easy instruction to follow, holiday recipes can be fun, decorative, and most importantly, delicious.

Eggnog first originated in Europe as a punch with milk and eggs. When it came to America, the alcohol was added. The homemade drink tastes little like the store-bought beverage. This recipe is taken from Alton Brown's show "Good Eats." There are two types of eggnog, cooked and uncooked. Because of the risk of salmonella, cooked eggnog is safer and tastes more like custard, but I have included both versions so you can choose for yourself.

### Ingredients

4 egg yolks  
1/3 cup sugar, plus 1 tablespoon  
1 pint whole milk  
1 cup heavy cream  
3 ounces bourbon  
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg  
4 egg whites

### Directions

Beat the egg yolks until they lighten in color. Gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar and continue to beat until it is completely dissolved. Add the milk, cream, bourbon and nutmeg and stir to combine.

In another bowl, beat the egg whites till they form soft peaks, then add a tablespoon of sugar and beat till they form stiff peaks.

Whisk the egg whites into the mixture. Chill and serve.

### Cooked Eggnog:

Beat the egg yolks until they lighten in color. Gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar and continue to beat until it is completely dissolved. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, over high heat, combine the milk, heavy cream and nutmeg and bring to just a boil, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and slowly add the hot mixture to the egg yolks and sugar. Then return everything to the saucepan and cook until the mixture reaches 160 degrees F. Remove from the heat, stir in the bourbon, pour into a medium mixing bowl, and set in the refrigerator to chill.

In a medium mixing bowl, beat the egg whites to soft peaks. With the mixer running gradually add the 1 tablespoon of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Whisk the egg whites into the chilled mixture.

## 2008? More like 200-great!



The year 2008 brought the world growth, prosperity, and change. Obama was elected president, Michael Phelps won eight gold Olympic medals, AC/DC came back in black with their latest album, and the price of gas hit an all time high at \$4.59 per gallon. 2008 has been one for the books, and here to celebrate the end of an amazing year is a compiled list of what was so great about 2008: the best of the best.

### 2008'S STUPIDEST PERSON - A Balloon Priest

Catholic Priest, Adelir Antonio de Carli, age 41, attempted to set the world record for clustered balloon flight. Carli took many precautions including wearing a survival suit, selecting a buoyant chair, and packing a satellite phone along with a GPS.

To Carli's dismay the winds blew him out to sea. He could have parachuted to safety while still over land but chose not to do so. Carli inevitably became lost and decided to phone for help. Rescuers were unable to find him, due to the fact he didn't know how to use the GPS. The Priest's body surfaced a few weeks later.

### 2008'S BEST FILM GROSS - The Dark Knight

The Dark Knight, the second in the Batman series, ultimately hit \$67 million on opening day in the United States. The Dark Knight broke records for most tickets sold, best opening weekend, and fastest film to hit \$500 million. As of Nov. 11 The Dark Knight has grossed, worldwide, \$997 million dollars. It is the fourth highest grossing film of all time and the second highest in the United States history following Titanic. The film will be re-released in IMAX theaters this January.

### 2008'S BEST NEW CONCEPT-- Going Green

"Our environment is currently facing huge obstacles that have the potential to seriously disturb our future and the future of our flora and fauna friends," TreeHugger, one of the millions of sites devoted to informing the world about the problems facing it, and ways to fix our wrongdoings, said.

"Going Green" is all about coming together to take responsibility for the pollution our modern world has dumped on the environment. Education resulting in small daily changes in behavior is the solution to the pollution and energy crisis facing the 21st century. Simple actions, such as, riding your bike to school, re-using a water bottle, and recycling garbage are things we can do for present and future generations.

### 2008'S BEST STARBUCKS DRINK - Caramel Macchiato

The Caramel Macchiato is a signature Starbucks drink made with a mix of steamy milk, vanilla, and the famous Starbucks espresso. Topped with velvety foam and buttery caramel sauce. A grande-size Caramel Macchiato is packed with 190 calories.

### 2008'S BEST-SELLING BOOK - Breaking Dawn (Twilight Saga by Stephanie Meyer)

"Twilight tempted the imagination. New Moon made readers thirsty for more. Eclipse turned the saga into a worldwide phenomenon. And now, the book that everyone has been waiting for... Breaking Dawn, the final book in the #1 bestselling Twilight Saga, will take your breath away," publisher Little, Brown said.

According to the recently published Barnes and Noble 2008's Bestseller List, 'Breaking Dawn' is at the top. The fourth in Stephanie Meyer's Twilight series was published in August and was greeted by midnight debut parties and fanged teeth. Although for a short time there seemed to be a negative connotation attached to Breaking Dawn's namesake, the bestseller was still praised by fans.

### 2008'S BEST REALITY T.V. SHOW - Dancing With The Stars

MSN named ABC's seventh season of "Dancing with the Stars" the number one reality TV show in 2008. Thirteen celebrities are paired with professional dancers and compete on the floor in a variety of dance styles.

"A great concept, cool visuals, real skills to observe, and distinct personalities to root for. Plus, it's nice to watch celebs who have some talent beyond having been famous," Kati Johnston, writer for MSN entertainment, said.

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