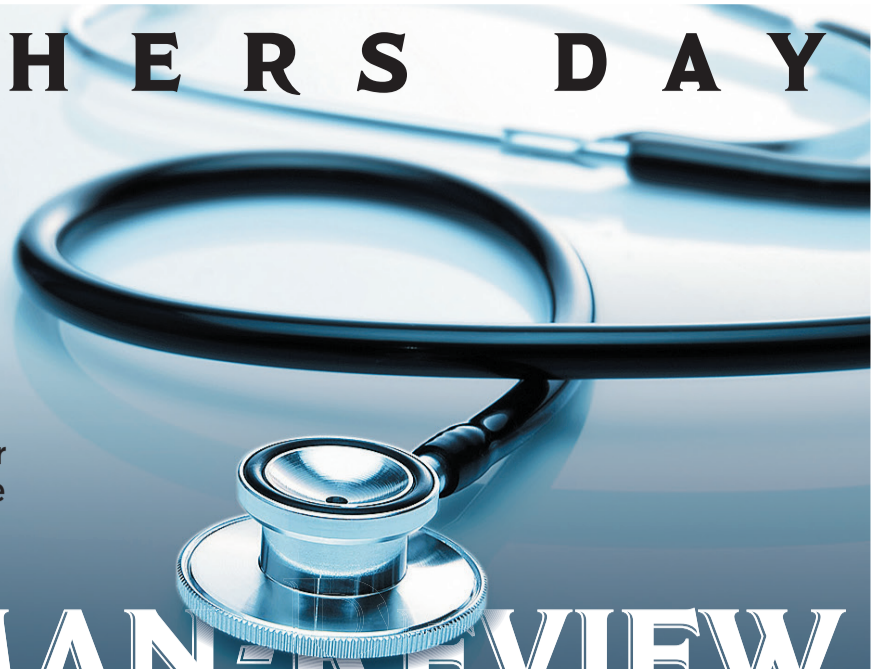


HAPPY FATHERS DAY

DAD SETS EXAMPLE FOR FAMILY OF NURSES

John Rothstrom, 61, has been on the job more than 30 years. Daughter Hanna Norris, 34, and son Jordan Rothstrom, 32, followed him into the occupation. A daughter-in-law is also a nurse. **TODAY, 1**



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

SUNDAY, June 19, 2022

140th VOL., ISSUE 11 - EST. MAY 19, 1883

Spokane, Washington

TROUBLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

System caused nearly 150 cases of harm

Draft report by watchdog claims Cerner Corp. didn't fix flaw before widespread implementation

By Orion Donovan-Smith
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON - A computer system at Spokane's VA hospital has caused harm to at least 148 veterans in the Inland Northwest, a draft report by a federal watchdog agency reveals.

The draft report also claims

that Cerner Corp., which is being paid at least \$10 billion for the electronic health records system, knew about a flaw that caused the harm but failed to fix it or inform the Department of Veterans Affairs before the system launched at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in October 2020.

VA Secretary Denis Mc-

Donough said this spring he was not aware of any harm caused by the system and he would halt its rollout if safety experts determined it increased risk to veterans, yet the draft report shows a VA patient safety team briefed the department's deputy secretary in October 2021 about the harm and ongoing risks. Despite

those warnings, the VA has since launched the system at more facilities in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Ohio.

The draft report by the VA's Office of Inspector General, or OIG, found the electronic health record system developed by Cerner failed to deliver more than 11,000 orders for specialty care, lab work and

other services - without alerting health care providers the orders had been lost. Those lost orders, often called referrals, resulted in delayed care and what a VA patient safety team classified as dozens of cases of "moderate harm" and one case of "major harm."

See **VA, 9**

JUNETEENTH 2022

FREE at LAST

HOLIDAY MARKS ANNOUNCEMENT IN TEXAS OF THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE U.S. AFTER CIVIL WAR

By Amber D. Dodd
COMMUNITY JOURNALISM FUND

Each week, The Spokesman-Review examines one question from the Naturalization Test immigrants must pass to become United States citizens.

Today's question: What U.S. war ended slavery?

Two months after the end of the American Civil War, Union Major General Gordon Granger issued an order in Galveston, Texas, announcing a decision made more than two years earlier.

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between for-

We the People

COMMUNITY PROJECT
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

mer masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor," Granger's General Order No. 3, delivered June 19, 1865, said.

The delay in news of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation reaching Galveston was partly because "in the cradle of the slave-holding confederacy such a truth refused to be recognized," wrote Elwood Watson, professor of History, Black Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at East Tennessee State

University, in a "We the People" essay last year.

Granger's order was celebrated by formerly enslaved people a year later, and resulted in the Juneteenth holiday, marking the end of slavery in the United States.

The day became a federal holiday in 2021. It stresses the importance of celebrating the multiple histories of the American people.

Before the Civil War, abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Mary Ann Shadd sparked concerns about the idea and integrity of American freedom.

Americans recognize July 4, 1776, as American Independence Day, gaining freedom after

See **JUNETEENTH, 9**

CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGERS AIM TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES

Two Democrats, one Republican take on McMorris Rodgers

By Kip Hill
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A November victory would keep Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers in Congress for a 20th year, but two Democrats positioning themselves separately within the party are vying for the likely spot to challenge the longtime congresswoman in the fall.

Natasha Hill, a 39-year-old local attorney and Hillyard native, and Ann Marie Danimus, a 51-year-old marketing professional with ties to the region's rural reaches, have both filed as Democrats to unseat McMorris Rodgers, 53, who's seeking a 10th term in Washington, D.C., representing the state's 5th Congressional district.

Sean Clync, a 60-year-old substitute teacher and Army veteran, rounds out the primary ballot as a Republican.

McMorris Rodgers said she hopes re-election and the likely return to power for the GOP in the House of Representatives would make her the chair of the House's Energy and Commerce Committee, which handles policies dealing with hydropower, gas production, technology and health care.

"It's the committee that's at the forefront of many of the people of Eastern Washington," McMorris Rodgers said, citing plans to work on legislation addressing rural access to high-speed internet, additional paths to employment for those with disabilities and increasing accountability for technology firms

See **DISTRICT 5, 6**

REMEMBER TO BE SAFE FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Despite a cooler, water-logged spring, warmer temperatures are on the way, and our short checklist will have you ready for fun. **NW, 1**

CLARKSTON'S DAHMEN TRAILS BY THREE SHOTS AT U.S. OPEN

Joel Dahmen is still in contention after battling gusty winds and firm greens at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass. **SPORTS, 1**

Classifieds.....Classifieds 1

Business.....Business 1

LotteriesNews 4

Television.....Today 4

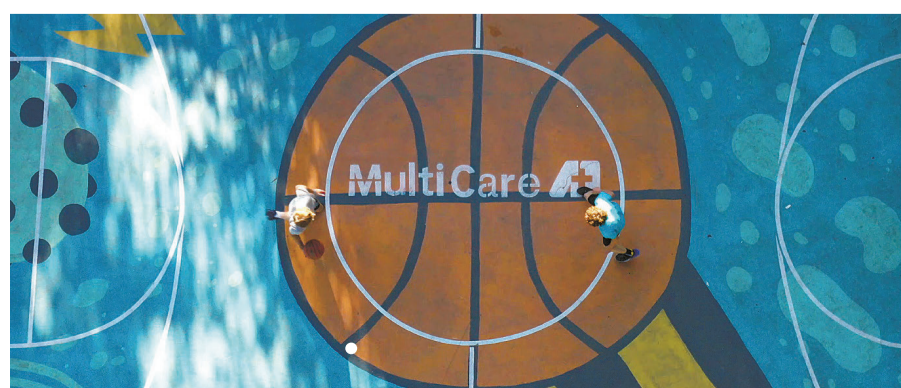
Obituaries.....NW 6

OpinionBusiness 2-3



6 98961 00001 8

\$3



Healthy communities need more than health care

It is our privilege to care for this community, and to support key partners like Hoopfest. Together, Hoopfest and MultiCare have led Spokane on its way to a new identity as Hoopfest USA, a community committed to health.

We're here for you.

