

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## A STORY OF TRAUMA, HEALING

Jamie Ford reimagines the historical figure Afong Moy, who came to the U.S. as a teenager in 1834 from China, and creates a redemptive ending to an otherwise likely tragic end. **TODAY, 1**



SUNDAY, September 11, 2022

140th VOL., ISSUE 95 - EST. MAY 19, 1883

Spokane, Washington



(Doctors) told me up front that, because (the cancer) metastasized, anything they do is just going to make my quality of life go down.”

Charlie Bourg

## Veteran believes VA computer system failed him, others

Bourg believes his cancer could have been caught sooner if not for problems with the electronic health records

By Orion Donovan-Smith  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON - Charlie Bourg and Charlie Monroe first met in 2016 when the two veterans started a marathon protest outside Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center that evolved from demanding access to exercise equipment into a catch-all demonstration calling for better treatment for patients and staff.

Since then, “the Charlies” have been a fixture at the Spokane

hospital, serving as de facto patient advocates and a sounding board for frustrated employees. So when reports of missing medications and myriad other errors emerged soon after the Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new computer system at the hospital in October 2020, they worried veterans could wind up dead, victims of a system critics say is being effectively beta-tested on live patients in the Inland

See **BOURG, 9**



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Charlie Bourg, who lives in Chewelah, is a veteran diagnosed with cancer that he alleges became terminal after VA's Cerner EHR system delayed his diagnosis and treatment.

# SACRED GROUND



JESSE TINSLEY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A piece of plane wreckage engraved with a message makes a makeshift memorial on the spot in the Mount Spokane State Park where a KC-135 plane crashed in 1962.

## FAMILIES OF MEN KILLED 60 YEARS AGO IN AIR FORCE CRASH NEAR MOUNT SPOKANE HAVE BEEN RETURNING, LOOKING FOR PEACE

By Kip Hill  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Roland Tillman's voice echoed through a thicket of trees Saturday morning on the side of Mount Kit Carson.

“I found a wire!” the 8-year-old called to his family, who'd just trudged, climbed and sometimes stumbled through forested overgrowth in Mount Spokane State Park after traveling from Colorado and Minnesota to be here.

The Tillman family was drawn back to this place, a plot of land on the slope of Mount Kit Car-

son indistinguishable from the rest of the landscape except by the few scattered metal remains of an Air Force tanker. Sixty years ago Saturday, Air Force 1st Lt. Gray E. Tillman died here along with 43 other men. The crash of Mourn 79 remains the deadliest aviation crash in Spokane County history, yet there are no obvious visual clues guiding potential visitors to this logged expanse where metal met mountain.

Three generations of the family hiked in Saturday morning, bringing remembrances of Gray Tillman and something to leave

behind.

For daughter Grace Doumani, who was five months old when her father died, it's a button from his uniform she secreted away from her mother.

“I'm a flight attendant, and I've taken it with me,” Doumani said, running her thumb along the button she wears on a necklace around her neck. “I don't wear it when I fly very often. But every once in a while, I'm like, I'm going to take dad with me.”

Gray Tillman III sees his father in the two twin boys he

See **CRASH, 6**

## We the People

COMMUNITY PROJECT

## SOME WANT CONVENTION TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Article V allows Congress to reconsider laws if requested by two-thirds of U.S. states

By Jim Camden

FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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

**Today's question: What is the supreme law of the land?**

Since 1789 when it took effect, the U.S. Constitution has been the supreme law of the land, setting up a republic with powers and responsibilities divided among three branches of government.

The Constitution - drafted, debated and adopted at a convention of 55 men from the original 13 states - includes Article V, the rules on how to make changes to the original plan. It was something the Founding Fathers quickly realized would be necessary just to get the Constitution ratified.

Ten amendments guaranteeing certain individual freedoms, now known as the Bill of Rights, were

See **WE THE PEOPLE, 6**

## SPOKANE OFFICERS RECEIVE AWARDS

The two police officers who earlier this summer were targets in a drive-by shooting were honored at Shriners ceremony. **NEWS, 11**

## WSU STUNS 19TH-RANKED WISCONSIN

The Cougars held the Badgers scoreless in the second half to earn a 17-14 road win in a homecoming of sorts for first-year coach Jake Dickert. **SPORTS, 1**