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SEATTLE MARINERS 2 @ HOUSTON ASTROS 4

NEW GAME, SAME STORY

Yordan Alvarez hits another soul-crushing home run as Houston puts the Mariners on the brink of elimination with the series returning to Seattle. **SPORTS, 1**



J.P. Crawford of the Seattle Mariners reacts to grounding out against the Houston Astros during the ninth inning in Game 2 of the American League Division Series at Minute Maid Park on Thursday in Houston. **GETTY IMAGES**

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

FRIDAY, October 14, 2022

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Spokane, Washington

TROUBLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA delays rollout of computer system

Health records tracker tested in Spokane since 2020; 41,500 veterans to be warned care may have been impacted

By Orion Donovan-Smith
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Thursday it will postpone the rollout of a troubled computer system it has been testing in Spokane for the past two years and will notify more than 40,000 veterans in the Inland Northwest, Oregon and Ohio that their treatment may have been delayed by problems with the system.

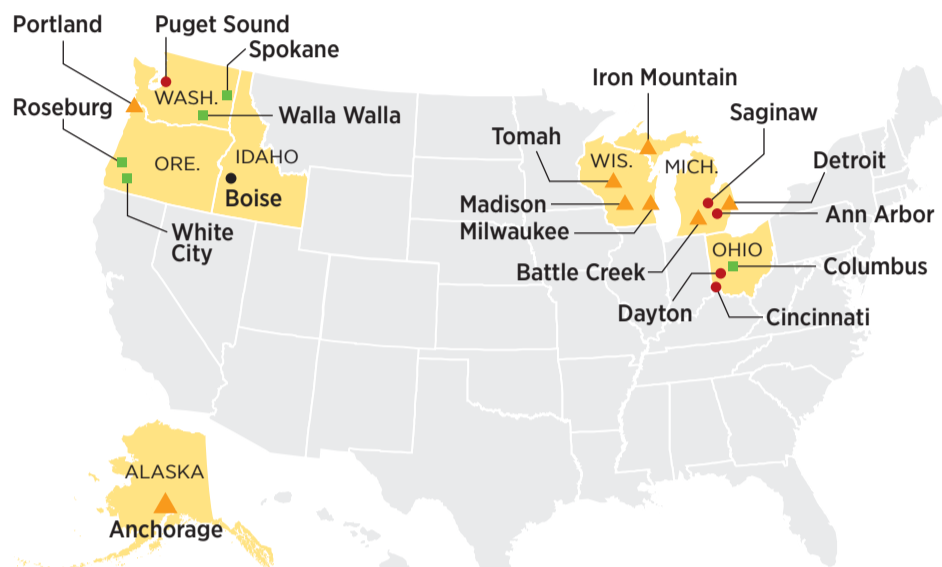
The new electronic health record system, developed by Oracle Cerner under a \$10 billion

contract to replace the VA's existing system, had been scheduled to launch in the first quarter of 2023 at hospitals in Western Washington, Michigan and Ohio, but those and all other deployments have been pushed back to at least June, the department said in a news release.

"Right now, the Oracle Cerner electronic health record system is not delivering for Veterans or VA health care providers - and we are holding Oracle Cerner and ourselves accountable to get this right," VA Deputy Secretary

See **VA, 9**

ORACLE CERNER SYSTEM ROLLOUT DELAYED



- Five main sites that have launched the Oracle Cerner system
- Launches planned for January-March 2023 will be delayed until at least June 2023
- ▲ Sites whose launches could have happened before June 2023
- Postponed indefinitely

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs

MOLLY QUINN/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

HITTING HIGH NOTES

Ridgeline High School band sets winning tradition at new school dominating regional competitions

By Jim Allen
FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

It's been a long journey, but a joyous one, for the marching band at Ridgeline High School. It began last fall, when the new school opened in Liberty Lake. Everything in the \$100 million building was new, from the microscopes in the science labs to the glistening floor of the gymnasium.

But when the marching band members met for their first practice in August 2021, instruments were scarce, there were no uniforms and the color guard twirled their flags on poles fashioned from PVC pipes.

"It was harder than I could have imagined," said senior color guard captain Alayna Bell.

And yet a year later, Ridgeline is the top marching band in the Pacific Northwest. Earlier this month, the Ridgeline Regiment outperformed 15 other bands in a competition in Mead.

The new band on the block won first place for best music, visuals, general effect, color guard and percussion.

That was no fluke. A week earlier in Pasco, Ridgeline bested 17 other bands.

"There's definitely something great about being recognized," band director Eric Parker said this week. "Nothing succeeds like success, and a lot of people are talking about our band."

But it isn't about the trophies, said Sophia Jensen, a senior woodwinds captain. And in case sports fans weren't sure, it also isn't about



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Ridgeline High School band and color guard performs during their homecoming football game Oct. 7.

See **RIDGELINE, 9**

NEILL LEAVES DREAM JOB AT 'TOXIC' BLOOMSDAY

Race director of three years resigns after board strips him of his title

By Garrett Cabeza
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Bloomsday Race Director Jon Neill resigned this week from his role leading one of Spokane's most iconic events. He cited a "toxic" work environment after the nonprofit's board of directors stripped him of his title.

"It has been a dream come true to serve as Bloomsday Race Director and I am saddened that

it has been taken away," Neill wrote in a letter, dated Tuesday, to Bloomsday founder and long-time race director Don Kardong and the Bloomsday board.

Two board members, Tom Fuchs and Steven Jones, resigned last month. Fuchs supported Neill, who served as director since 2020, and said he stepped away after seven years

See **BLOOMSDAY, 9**

Victim confronts ex-cop who raped her

Nathan Nash, 39, was sentenced to more than 14 years in prison after being found guilty of raping Tatyanna Presnell and another woman during follow-up visits for physical assaults in his role as a police officer. **NW, 1**



JESSE TINSLEY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

FURTHER REVIEW: WHEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT BECOMES A TARGET

Since the country's inception, the chief executive of the country has faced 15 direct attempts at assassination. **NEWS, 8**

CROSBY HOUSE UNVEILS PORTRAIT DONE BY NORMAN ROCKWELL

The famous painter and illustrator wasn't above doing advertisements, featuring a portrait of Bing on one for canned peaches. **7**

