

Avista takes pause on data center

Utility says it is receiving unprecedented amount of feedback

By Julia Pentasuglio
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Avista announced Friday afternoon that negotiations with a potential 500-megawatt data center customer have been "paused" to seek "broader policy and commu-

nity alignment."

The announcement follows criticism from many in the community and an ordinance under consideration by the Spokane City Council calling for a one-year moratorium on the construction of data centers to build stronger

regulatory frameworks.

"We've heard the questions and concerns from our customers, community members and local leaders, and we take that feedback seriously," Avista President and CEO Heather Rosentrater said in a news release. "This input has demonstrated a need for a broader coordinated planning effort, which Avista will actively participate in. As a regional energy provider, we are just one part of

the project development process. We recognize that we need more time to align with our partners and communities in a way that is transparent, thoughtful and in the best long-term interest of our region."

Avista officials said they are committed to collaborating with local leaders, regulators and community members on how large data center proposals are handled moving forward.

"For over 137 years, Avista has served large load energy customers that help support the economic health and vitality of the region," the announcement said.

Avista entered into a nonbinding agreement with one "large load" customer seeking to use an amount of electricity that would be equal to more than half the combined power used by all residential

See AVISTA, 6



SUMMER OF SOCCER

Brought to you by No-Li

TEAM EGYPT VISIT BRINGS NEW PITCH TO GONZAGA

By Nick Gibson
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Gonzaga University will have a world-class stage to entice recruits long after the clamor of the World Cup dies down.

Team Egypt began practice at Gonzaga University's Luger Field this week on a new state-of-the-art pitch built specifically to host the Pharaohs.

Like almost every other element of the game, FIFA provides stringent guidelines and policies for the shape of the pitch where players will compete or practice. Much of the work completed this spring, in a matter of weeks, was to bring the field up to standards, said Gonzaga Facilities Director Rob Kavon.

"FIFA has pretty high standards when it comes to the type of grass we have, and in the kind of the base, and how firm the grass is, and how thick the grass is," Kavon said. "Everything like that."

Organizers inspected Gonzaga's pitch ahead of placing the team to ensure the facilities were up to snuff, and identified two major issues with the old Luger Field, Kavon said. The field was not perfectly level, and the grass conditions weren't the best after more than a few Spokane winters.

The contractor responsible for the work came in after the collegiate spring soccer season ended in late April and rebuilt the pitch from the base up. After releveling and pouring a new sand base, 1¼-inch-thick sod was rolled out in sheets. Kavon and his team only had to water and let it grow,

See EGYPT, 6

SOCCER WATCHING 101

Scoreless draw, other miracles Americans must learn to love the sport



JESSE TINSLEY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Egypt's Mohamed Salah, center, jokes with his teammates Wednesday during a public practice for the Egyptian men's national soccer team at Gonzaga University's Luger Field. Spokane is the Egyptian team's base camp for the World Cup taking place across the country.

By Allan Buluku
FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

American sports culture rests on one sacred promise: that the fan deserves to be entertained

every single second, or someone has failed.

Americans are raised on stimulation engineered like baby food, spooned in steady doses to soothe a nation's collective atten-

tion deficit.

Football gives the nation four seconds of beautiful violence followed by 40 seconds of replays, slow-motion moves and a man trying to sell us a truck.

Basketball hands us a scoreboard that climbs like a tech stock on a bullish Monday, points raining down so freely they lose all

See SOCCER, 6

UNITED STATES 4, PARAGUAY 1



GETTY IMAGES

The United States' Christian Pulisic, left, and Weston McKennie celebrate their team's first goal, an own goal by Paraguay's Damian Bobadilla, during the first half of the FIFA World Cup Group D match Friday at Los Angeles Stadium.

USMNT dazzles in nearly flawless opening win

In front of a sold out crowd Friday at Los Angeles Stadium, the United States got off to a dream start.

Midfielder Weston McKennie forced an owl goal, and star forward Christian Pulisic notched an assist as the team jumped out to an early lead en route to a 4-1 victory.

Striker Folarin Balogun, recruited away from England,

scored the second goal and added another just before halftime.

Paraguay pulled one back in the 73rd minute but was unable to threaten again.

Substitute Gio Reyna added the exclamation point for the Americans, bending a shot off the outside of his boot just before the final whistle.

READ MORE, SPORTS 1

COLUMN: WORLD CUP GOT EXACTLY WHAT IT NEEDED

The USMNT's electric performance doesn't excuse the ugliness and greed that's marked the lead-up to this World Cup, but it makes it a whole lot easier for U.S. fans to get enthused about the next five weeks - and get behind the team. SPORTS, 1