

Happy Pi Day!
Circle the date:
3.14.15
NEWS > A2



Google's new Chromebook:
zippy, pricey, quirky

PERSONAL TECH > A5

MILES TO GO
ON LEAVE

QB may not be back

SPORTS > C1



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015



RAIN

High, 56. Low, 45. > B8
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Park may replace Roosevelt-area blight

CITY PLANS TO TAKE OVER LAND IN LIEU OF FINES

Notorious landlords owe \$3.3 million

By DANIEL BEEKMAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

A piece of property owned by one of Seattle's most notorious landlords will become a pocket park intended as breathing space in a neighborhood slated to become much denser, according to a plan announced Friday by city officials.

Some Roosevelt and Ravenna residents applauded the plan, while others asked whether the site might be better used for low-income housing.

The 0.2-acre parcel near Roosevelt High School belongs to Hugh and Martha Sisley, a landlord couple who owe the city \$3.3 million in legal judgments, fines and interest related to housing-code violations at the dozens of rental homes they control.

Unless the Sisleys agree to transfer the parcel to the city, officials will seek to have the land seized by

the King County Sheriff's Office and sold at auction, City Attorney Pete Holmes said. The city would then subtract the property's fair market value from what the couple owe.

Mayor Ed Murray will send a proposed ordinance to the City Council next week authorizing the city to buy the property at auction to build a new park there, he told a crowd of about 40 neighbors during a news conference at the property Friday morning.

"Today we are announcing our plan to take what has been nothing short of a black eye on this neigh-



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

City Attorney Pete Holmes, left, speaks to a cheering crowd Friday at Northeast 65th Street and 14th Avenue Northeast, site of a planned city pocket park. Roosevelt High School is in the background.

borhood and turn it into something that the entire community can enjoy," Murray said. "This blight has had a very real impact on property values and the success of local

businesses."

Holmes said he hopes the Sisleys will cooperate, but doesn't expect them to. In that case, the process of
See > ROOSEVELT, A8

50 feet of gray, now showing in Puget Sound



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The fluke of a gray whale breaks the surface as the creature prepares for a deep dive. This whale, identified as a male named "Little Patch," is visiting Puget Sound on his migratory trek north to Alaska from Mexico, a side trip he has been making since at least 1991. (Gray whales, which grow to 50 feet long and 40 tons, can live to be 70.) Little Patch is one of about a doz-

en grays that break off from the 20,000-whale migration every year to eat ghost shrimp in shallow Saratoga Passage, earning the nickname "Saratoga grays." They can be seen in Possession Sound, between Everett and Whidbey Island, where the Chilkat Express whale-watching boat out of Edmonds will tour on weekends until the grays depart in late May or early June.

ON THE WEB | A photo gallery of the Saratoga grays is at seattletimes.com

Even in better times, food-bank visits are up

'NEW NORMAL' | In the Seattle area, some food banks are getting more visits now than during the recession. Costs for rent and food have gone up while many remain underemployed or earn low wages.

By JANET I. TU
Seattle Times business reporter

Michelle Dillon made it all through graduate school eating rice and beans, bananas and other inexpensive food she purchased mainly from grocery outlets.

But several months after graduating with a master's degree in library and information science and looking without success for a full-time job using that degree, Dillon turned to the Rainier Valley Food Bank to supplement the groceries she buys.

Having access to the food bank, she said, "allows me to eat a lot better than I could on my own."

Like Dillon, large numbers of

people have found themselves turning to food banks in recent years, with usage of food banks surging during the Great Recession.

But even as the economy recovers and the number of jobs continues to rise, more Americans are relying on food banks and other forms of assistance because of ongoing challenges including long-term unemployment, underemployment and wage stagnation.

In the Seattle area, some food banks are getting more visits now than they did during the recession. At the 27 food pantries in the Seattle Food Committee coalition, the number of visits (including delivery of food to homes) went up



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

from 928,656 in 2007 to 1.1 million in 2009 and to nearly 1.4 million last year.

Food bank workers say their clients tell them they're working fewer hours or making less than before, while costs for everything from rent to food have gone up. Rising housing and food costs have hit those on low or fixed incomes,
See > FOOD BANK, A4

Michele Dillon, 30, who graduated last year with a master's and has been unable to find a full-time job, uses the Rainier Valley Food Bank regularly. She's shown here at Hillman City Collaboratory, a community center where she volunteers.

Boeing's CEO raked in almost \$29 million last year

A 24 PERCENT BOOST

Execs' compensation comes after white-collar staff, workers got lower bonuses

By DOMINIC GATES
Seattle Times aerospace reporter

Boeing Chief Executive Jim McNerney's total compensation last year jumped to nearly \$29 million,

up 24 percent from 2013, according to a regulatory filing Friday.

Though most Boeing employees got a smaller bonus this year than last, McNerney's total included an annual bonus of \$4.4 million, the same amount that he received in 2013.

His compensation also included a \$10 million three-year performance bonus, double the target amount. Boeing's second highest paid

executive, Commercial Airplanes boss Ray Conner, received \$16 million. Conner got an annual bonus of \$1.3 million and his three-year performance bonus was almost \$800,000, the filing shows.

Conner's 2014 bonus was down 9 percent from the previous year's.

However, the filing also shows Conner was given a supplemental grant of 50,000 shares that will vest
See > BOEING, A4



CHRIS RATCLIFFE / BLOOMBERG

Jim McNerney is chief executive officer of Boeing.

IS IT THE FLU? IS HE DEAD? JUST WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PUTIN?

WEEKLONG ABSENCE FUELS RUMOR MILL

Presidential spokesman: 'He's fine'

By NEIL MACFARQUHAR
The New York Times

MOSCOW — Where's Putin?

The question obsessed Moscow and much of Russia on Friday, as speculation mounted as to why President Vladimir Putin had not been seen in public for more than a week.

He abruptly canceled a trip to Kazakhstan and postponed a treaty signing with representatives from South Ossetia who were reportedly told not to bother to fly to Moscow.

Most unusually, he was absent from an annual meeting of the top officials from the FSB, Russia's domestic-intelligence service.

The rumor mill went into overdrive, churning out possible explanations. He had been
See > PUTIN, A3

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