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OPINION > A9

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016

# The Seattle Times

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# As rain falls, so does record

Wettest wet season ever for Seattle — and one more week to go



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Never since record-keeping began in 1894 has Seattle seen so much rain in our rainy season, with 22.97 inches recorded at Sea-Tac Airport since Dec. 1. Forecasters had predicted a warm, dry El Niño winter — but proved right only about warmer-than-usual temperatures.

By LYNDA V. MAPES  
Seattle Times environment reporter

Seattle drowned its rain record Friday, setting an all-time high for our wettest rainy season ever. We've had nearly 2 feet of rain, or 22.97 inches, since Dec. 1, breaking the previous 22.77-inch record set in the same time of year in 1998-99.

The record is for the period from December through February, called meteorological winter because it typically is the coldest stretch of the year. With more rain in the forecast, and more than a week left in the month, the old record is sure to sink even further.

**“In many ways, all this moisture has been kind of a happy surprise. Certainly our snowpack is in good shape.”**

NICK BOND  
State climatologist

Meteorological winter differs from astronomical winter, bounded by the winter solstice and spring equinox.

After all the predictions of a monster El Niño this year, expectations were for a warmer, drier winter. Warmer came through in spades, with temperatures in Seattle so far during the month of February running about 5 degrees above normal.

“I have not needed a thick coat for a while,” said Nick Bond, state climatologist and senior research scientist with

See > RAIN, A5



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Rio, in yellow, and Athena, in green, were sensibly attired for a walk around Green Lake on Friday afternoon as Seattle broke its record for the wettest rainy season in history.

# Vulcan turns its attention to Central District

BUYS LAND AT S. JACKSON AND 23RD AVE. S.

570 apartments proposed in two mid-rise buildings

By SANJAY BHATT  
Seattle Times business reporter

For 14 years, local East African immigrants have found their way to Berhane Amanuel's store in the Promenade 23 shopping center on South Jackson Street to connect with the community, stock up on groceries and hear the latest beats from home.

Among the rows of neatly stacked shelves are 10-pound bags of Ethiopian coffee beans, along with roasting pans and a ceramic boiling pot used in a traditional coffee ceremony. The store offers customers items they can't get at the Red Apple Market next door.

“I feel like this is my home,” said Fekadu Hailu, 30, of West Seattle, who shops at Amanuel's store frequently. “They have everything here.”

But change is afoot for the center's retailers: In its first foray into the Central Area, South Lake

See > VULCAN, A6

# Pair of tests today for establishment candidates

S. CAROLINA, NEVADA

Trump favored in GOP primary; Clinton, Sanders running neck and neck

By DAN BALZ, ABBY PHILLIP,  
JOSE A. DELREAL  
The Washington Post

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The strength of anti-establishment fervor in the 2016 presidential campaign faces a twin test Saturday, with Donald Trump favored to win the Republican primary in the crucial state of South Carolina and Sen. Bernie Sanders battling Hillary Clinton for supremacy in the Democratic caucuses in Nevada.

Establishment Republicans have yet to fully coalesce around an alternative to Trump, though Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who stumbled in New Hampshire, hopes to rebound in Saturday's balloting in South Carolina.

Clinton still enjoys strong support from the Democratic

See > CAMPAIGN, A4

# Harper Lee, author of enduring novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' dies at 89

Shunned fame gained from a tale of innocence lost, prejudice in Deep South

OBITUARY |

By WILLIAM GRIMES  
The New York Times

Harper Lee, whose first novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” about racial injustice in an Alabama town, sold more than 40 million copies and became one of the most beloved and most taught American works of fiction, died Friday in her hometown, Monroeville, Ala. She was 89.

Hank Conner, a nephew, said she died in her sleep at the Meadows, an assisted-living facility.

The instant success of “To Kill a Mockingbird,” which was published in 1960 and won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction the next year, turned Ms. Lee into a literary celeb-



ROB CARR / AP

riety, a role she found oppressive and never learned to accept.

“I never expected any sort of success with ‘Mockingbird,’” she told a radio interviewer in 1964. “I was hoping for a quick and merciful death at the hands of the reviewers, but, at the same time I sort of hoped someone would like it well enough

to give me encouragement.”

The enormous success of the film version of the novel, released in 1962 with Gregory Peck in the starring role of Atticus Finch, a small-town Southern lawyer who defends a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman, only added to Ms. Lee's fame and

Nelle Harper Lee was born in 1926, in Monroeville, Ala. “To Kill a Mockingbird” won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961.

fanned expectations for her next novel.

But for more than 50 years, a second novel failed to turn up, and she gained a reputation as a literary Garbo, a recluse whose public appearances to accept an award or an honorary degree counted as news simply because of their rarity. On such occasions she did not speak, other than to say a brief thank you.

In February 2015, long after the reading public had given up on seeing anything more from Ms. Lee, her publisher, Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins, dropped a bombshell. It announced plans to publish a manuscript — long thought to be lost and resurfacing in mysterious circumstances — that Ms. Lee had submitted in 1957 under the title “Go Set a Watchman.”

Ms. Lee's lawyer, Tonja Carter, said she had chanced upon it, attached to an original typescript of “To Kill a Mockingbird,” while looking through Ms. Lee's papers, the publishers explained. It told the

See > LEE, A4

‘NAME OF THE ROSE’ author Umberto Eco dies at 84 > A5

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