

Good news for Eastside renters?

Apartment costs dip
BUSINESS > A6



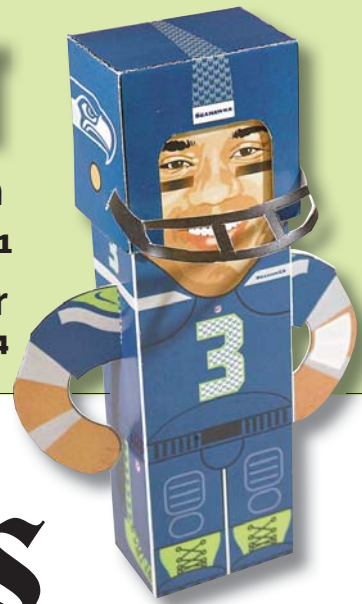
DREAM ON

Sky's limit for Russell Wilson

JERRY BREWER, SPORTS > C1

Hawks Buddy contest winner

SPORTS > C4



TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

The Seattle Times

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MOSTLY CLOUDY
High, 39. Low, 29. > **B8**
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JOSE LUIS VILLEGAS / [JVILLEGAS@SACBEE.COM](mailto:jvillegas@sacbee.com)

George (far left), Gavin (center left) and Phil Maloof (far right) walk across the Sacramento Kings' home court after last season's finale against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Maloof family, once among the most admired sports-franchise owners, is riding high no longer.

KINGS OWNERS ONCE TOASTS OF THE TOWN

MALOOF CLAN | Seattle's NBA chances are tied partly to a colorful, mega-rich family's fall from grace.

BY **KEN ARMSTRONG**
Seattle Times staff reporter

Members of the Maloof family — owners of the Sacramento Kings, the NBA team that might (or might not) be sold and moved to Seattle — used to be an accessible bunch.

They gave fans their cellphone numbers. They went on Oprah. They went on Howard Stern.

They went on Larry King, who couldn't gush enough, talking them up like a circus act, calling them "the amazing Maloofs," "the incredible Maloofs," "the mega-successful Maloofs."

The Maloofs — four brothers, one sister and their mother — also used to be revered in the city where their team plays. In 2003, ESPN The Magazine ranked 121 professional sports franchises in the United States, and concluded the Kings' owner-

NEW REPORTS
Kings purchase by Seattle group near? > **C1**

See > **MALOOF'S, A10**

TAX CUT ENDS, WORKERS FEEL PAYDAY PINCH

BY **JEFF GREEN AND AMANDA J. CRAWFORD**
Bloomberg News

PHOENIX, Ariz. — High-school teacher Kenny Williams said he's cutting back on his "family splurge fund" for movie and sports outings after the reinstated U.S. payroll tax lowered his first paycheck of the year by \$30.

The 46-year-old single dad of two was shopping at the 99 Cent Only store in Phoenix last week to save money on groceries and partly offset the \$60-a-month cut he expects in his take-home pay. Dinners out also will go, he said.

"I don't normally shop here for food, but I am now," Williams said. "You have to make up for it somehow. When you already are on a tight budget, something has to be done."

By Tuesday, most Americans will have experienced the hit to their checks firsthand after Congress let a 2-year-old payroll-tax break expire while averting bigger automatic cuts that were to take effect this month.

See > **TAXES, A4**

How the tax bump affects your wallet

A 2 percent payroll-tax break has expired. Here are examples of its effect on workers.

\$4.50 a week
For a single person earning at the poverty level

\$46.64 a week
For someone making the maximum \$113,700

Obama warns he won't budge on debt limit

BY **KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, LISA MASCARO AND CHRISTI PARSONS**
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — With the government just weeks from running out of money to pay its bills, President Obama and prominent Republicans both have started to act as if the White House has the upper hand in the current round of the battle over federal spending.

In recent days, Obama rebuffed suggestions that he consider ways to sidestep the need to raise the limit on the government's debt, reinforcing his demand for a congressional vote. Monday, he repeated that stand in a hastily announced news conference, lambasting Republicans for threatening to "blow up the economy" and insisting that

See > **DEBT LIMIT, A4**

OPENING OF STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate power shifts into GOP hands



PHOTOS BY **KEN LAMBERT** / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Sen. Rodney Tom, of Medina, center, crossed party lines with another Democrat, Sen. Tim Sheldon of Potlatch, Mason County, to give Republicans control of the state Senate for the first time in eight years. Tom is the new majority leader.

REPUBLICANS CHEER, DEMOCRATS SLAM BIPARTISANSHIP CLAIM AS EMPTY PROMISE

BY **ANDREW GARBER**
Seattle Times Olympia bureau

OLYMPIA — Republicans proved Monday they had the votes to take control of the state Senate, opening a session that must deal with a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall, a court mandate for more education funding, and Democrats' resentment over a loss of power.

Democratic Sens. Rodney Tom, of Medina, and Tim Sheldon, of Potlatch, Mason County, crossed party lines to give the GOP a 25-24 majority. They call themselves the Majority Coalition Caucus. Tom is the new majority leader; Sheldon, president pro tempore.

OPENING PRAYER'S mention of marriage ignites partisan bickering > **A10**

"This is a cause for celebration," Republican Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee, said of Monday's power shift. "People want us to work collaboratively." Democrats reject Republicans' claim that the arrangement reflects a new bipartisanship. It's not bipartisanship, they say, if the GOP-led coalition is comprised of 23 Republicans and two Democrats.

They also contend membership on the budget-writing committee and the rules

See > **SENATE, A10**



Sen. James Hargrove, D-Hoquiam, left, offers his arm to Sen. Tim Sheldon.

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