

Seattle gets the Last laugh

BREWER: Wacky game exposes glaring problems

In a comedy of errors, Hawks overcome miscues to beat Tennessee, 20-13 **SPORTS > C1**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013



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ELECTION 2013 | SeaTac's Proposition 1

Minimum-wage boost: Would it pay off?



MARCUS YAM / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Jorge Sanchez, a dishwasher at the Hilton in Long Beach, shares a one-bedroom apartment with his wife and daughter. He advocated for the "living-wage" law and got a raise of \$3.25 an hour but soon found himself working fewer hours.

Comparing 'living wage' proposals

Long Beach's Measure N

Description:

Created a \$13-an-hour minimum wage at nonunionized hotels with 100 or more rooms

Who's affected:

About 2,000 workers at 16 large hotels

Bottom line:

Represented a 63 percent pay raise over California's minimum wage of \$8 an hour

SeaTac's Proposition 1

Description:

Would create a \$15-an-hour minimum wage at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and its nearby hotels, car-rental agencies and parking lots

Who's affected:

About 6,300 workers at 72 airport-related businesses, or a quarter of the jobs in SeaTac

Bottom line:

Represents a 63 percent increase over Washington state's current minimum wage of \$9.19 an hour

Source: Seattle Times research

KING COUNTY SNOWPLOWS TO BE SCARCE THIS WINTER

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

Shrinking road budget means only primary routes will be cleared

By MIKE LINDBLOM
Seattle Times transportation reporter

King County plans to reduce its snowplowing in unincorporated areas by two-thirds this winter, to clear only the most critical roadways, because money is tight.

On the way into North Bend, crews will plow a few roads near Interstate 90, but homes in the foothills will be even more isolated than usual.

Drivers going from Carnation to Redmond will need to find an indirect route, while Northeast Union Hill Road is left to cross-country skiers.

White Center residents may want to stock up on kitty litter for traction, or walk with a wagon to the hardware store or the market, rather than skid along unplowed back streets.

The north-south Vashon Highway will be plowed, but not the coastline roads, nor attached Maudry Island, until the weather relents enough that crews have spare time.

"People who are trying to get out to their medical appointments, or to their employment, may be isolated for longer periods of time," said Brenda Bauer, director of the King County Road Services Division.

It might take longer for utility crews to restore heat or power, too, until plow crews can break a path, said Bauer, who will brief the Met-

See > **SNOWPLOW, A10**

In one city, similar measure brought some unexpected results

By AMY MARTINEZ
Seattle Times business reporter

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A year ago, Jorge Sanchez was struggling to support his family on \$9.75 an hour after a decade as a dishwasher at the Hilton hotel.

So Sanchez, 56, threw his support behind hiking the minimum wage to \$13 an hour for hotel workers in this port city just south of Los Angeles. A campaign flier featuring Sanchez in his white work uniform urged Latino voters to go to the polls last Nov. 6 and check "Yes" on Measure N.

But the Colombia native soon experienced what he believes was an unintended consequence: The same month he got a \$3.25-an-hour bump in pay, Sanchez's employer cut his workweek from 40 to 30 hours.

"Measure N was good because it raised our wages. But in reality, what the hotel did was cut our hours, so it hasn't

made a change," he said. Unlike Sanchez, Hilton bellman Donald Blackwood still works a 40-hour week and pulls in an extra \$800 a month thanks to the city's "living wage" law.

"Now, I have enough money saved up to buy a car," he said. "I'm not going to say it's a lot of

money. But you could live on that."

Next month, people in SeaTac will vote on a similar yet broader ballot initiative: Proposition 1 would lift the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for workers at the airport and its nearby hotels, parking lots

See > **SEATAC, A4**

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MARCUS YAM / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Donald Blackwood, a bellman at the Hilton, says the law resulted in \$800 more a month for him, and that helps him care for his mother and save up to buy a car.

Seattle man to get Medal of Honor after dispute, delay

By DAVID NAKAMURA
The Washington Post

Four years after he survived a brutal firefight in a remote Afghanistan valley that claimed the lives of five Americans, retired U.S. Army Capt. William Swenson will be hailed as a hero at the White House on Tuesday.

Swenson, 34, is credited with risking his life to help save his fellow troops and recover their bodies, feats that President Obama will recount when he presents Swenson with the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor.

But for Swenson, the award stands for more than his personal bravery during the



Retired Army Capt. William Swenson

seven-hour battle in the Ganjgal valley, near the Pakistan border, on Sept. 8, 2009. It is also a measure of vindication.

After returning from the battlefield, Swenson engaged in a lengthy and bitter dispute with the military over the narrative of one of the Afghan war's most notorious firefights.

The questions he raised resulted in reprimands for two other officers and what he believes was an effort by the Army to discredit him. His account also cast doubt on the exploits of another Medal of Honor winner from the same battle, Dakota Meyer of the Marine Corps.

United in war, the two men have taken far different paths since. Meyer has found celebrity and success, with a book and a

See > **SWENSON, A6**

More songs than gory thrills



JEFF CARPENTER

Keaton Whittaker, left, plays Carrie White, and Alice Ripley portrays Margaret White.

BALAGAN Theatre stages "Carrie, the musical."

While the production features strong voices, there's little in the way of scarlet ooze. > **YOUR MONDAY, B3**

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Today is Day 14

Ripple effects fuel debate on the role of government

By NANCY BENAC
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The lingering federal shutdown is transforming a musty debate over the role of government in America into a coast-to-coast, prime-time reality show.

With landmarks closed, paychecks delayed and workers furloughed, Americans are drawing dueling lessons from the rippling effects of the partial shutdown: The disruptions show that the feds are way too involved in people's lives or that the government does a lot of vital things that people take for granted.

There's a messaging war under way to see which viewpoint will prevail. But any shift in public opinion also may well hinge on how much, or how little, people are personally affected as the shutdown drags on.

"It definitely has brought to life what's going on," says Pamela

See > **SHUTDOWN, A3**

CLOSE-UP Obama's partner against GOP is Harry Reid, Senate majority leader > **A3**

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