

**LOVE & MAGIC** 

**★★★** 'The Edge of Seventeen' ★★★½ 'Loving' ★★½ 'Fantastic Beasts'

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\$1.00

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016 The Seattle Times

WINNER OF 10 PULITZER PRIZES

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED FOR 120 YEARS



# New weapon against hunger? Gates study boosts crop yields

PHOTOSYNTHESIS ALTERED WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING

Test plant's productivity increased as much as 20 percent

By JUSTIN GILLIS The New York Times

URBANA, Ill. — A decade ago, agricultural scientists at the University of Illinois suggested a bold approach to improve the food supply: Tinker with photosynthesis, the chemical reaction powering nearly all life on Earth.

The idea was greeted skeptically in scientific circles and ignored by funding agencies. But one outfit

with deep pockets, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, eventually paid attention, hoping the research might help alleviate global poverty.

Now, after several years of work funded by the Seattle-based foundation, the scientists are reporting a remarkable result.

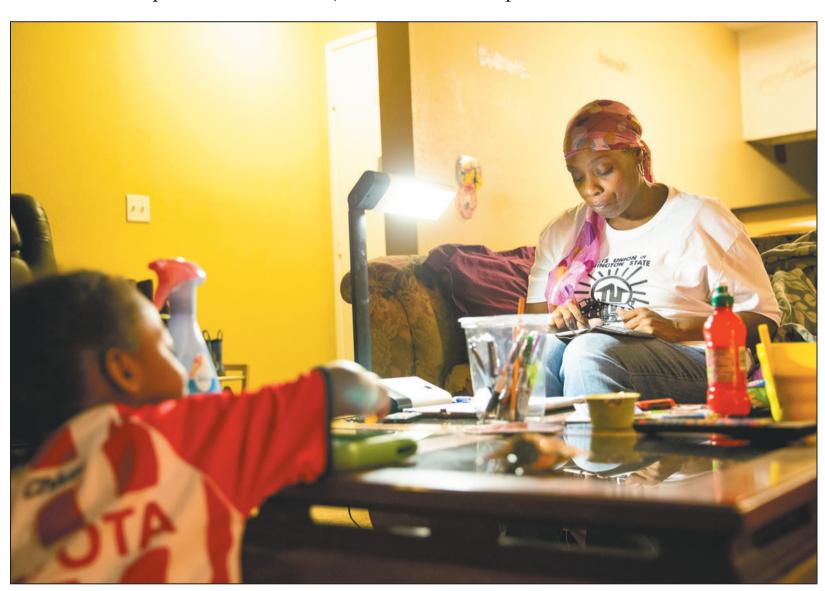
Using genetic-engineering techniques to alter photosynthesis, they increased the productivity of a test

plant — tobacco — by as much as 20 percent, they said Thursday in a study published by the journal Science. That is a huge number, given that plant breeders struggle to eke out gains of 1 or 2 percent with more conventional approach-

The scientists have no interest in increasing the production of tobac-See > CROPS, A5

### SECTION 8 'RIPPLE EFFECT'

**LOW-INCOME RENTERS** | As rents soar, many in the federal voucher program are seeking more-affordable places outside Seattle, but that raises competition for what units can be found.



LINDSEY WASSON / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Elmika James, a Section 8-qualified resident of the Renton Woods apartment complex, browses for new apartments in Renton earlier this month as her son Ze'Vion, 4, occupies himself. James thought she had found one in September but couldn't afford the required \$1,500 deposit.

By VERNAL COLEMAN Seattle Times staff reporter

On a recent Saturday morning, Elmika James settled into a couch inside the subsidized, three-bedroom apartment she fears she could soon lose and began searching for a new home.

She scoured housing websites on her phone, looking over listings friendly to participants in the federal Housing Choice voucher program, otherwise known as Section 8.

Many of the listings were old, the apartments advertised already rented. Others were scams. Some property managers have told her flatly they did not accept the vouchers at all.

James, a 43-year-old UPS package handler and mother of five, said rejection has become part of her daily routine. And she's not alone.

As the housing market skyrockets, many of the region's poorest tenants are struggling and competing — to find homes they can afford.

For James, cities like Seattle, where rents are higher than they've ever been, seem out of reach. "There just doesn't seem to be anything there for me," she

The Seattle Housing Authority

manages 10,000 vouchers and remains the largest program in the county. But the city has been bleeding Section 8 tenants for years as families move elsewhere in King County and the

Voucher holders are not bound by geography. Anyone lucky enough to obtain one, usually by lottery or after a waiting period, is free to transfer to another jurisdiction.

In 2011, 1,770 Section 8 tenants transferred their vouchers from Seattle to another jurisdiction, according to figures obtained by The Seattle Times. The

See > SECTION 8, A11

#### **How Section 8 works**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program provides funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help poor, elderly and disabled renters pay for housing. Managed by local public-housing authorities, the program provides renters with payment vouchers they can use to secure privately owned housing. Each voucher is good for a portion of the tenant's monthly rent, and is paid by the housing authorities directly to the landlords during the life of each lease.

Source: HUD

# Flynn is pick for national security

**RETIRED GENERAL ADVISED TRUMP CAMPAIGN** 

Obama fired him from key intelligence post

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS and MAGGIE HABERMAN The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Presidentelect Donald Trump has offered the post of national security adviser to Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, potentially elevating a retired intelligence officer who believes

**INFLUENCE** general might bring to White House > A3

Islamist extremism poses an existential threat on a global scale to one of the most powerful roles in shap-

ing military and foreign policy, according to a top official on the transition team.

It was not clear whether Flynn, 57, a registered Democrat who was fired as the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2014 by President Obama over leadership clashes, had accepted the position. Flynn advised Trump throughout his campaign,

### Trump ally wants some protests to be felonies

By JIM BRUNNER Seattle Times political reporter

As protests against Presidentelect Donald Trump sweep through Seattle and other major cities, a Republican state senator wants to make it a felony to participate in demonstrations



State Sen.

he labels "economic terrorism." State Sen.

that cause what

Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale, says he'll introduce a bill for the upcoming legislative session that

Doug Ericksen would allow felony prosecution of protesters who purposely break the law to disrupt economic activity, for example by blocking traffic or

sitting on railroad tracks. See > ERICKSEN, A8





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