



LOVE & MAGIC

★★★ 'The Edge of Seventeen'

★★★★½ 'Loving'

★★½ 'Fantastic Beasts'

MOVIETIMES > E13



Where to grab a drink on Black Friday

HAPPY HOUR > E7

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016



PARTLY SUNNY, RAIN
High, 53. Low, 42. > B8
seattletimes.com/weather

The Seattle Times

WINNER OF 10 PULITZER PRIZES

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SEATTLETIMES.COM

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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 sup-

ply: 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 approaches.

The scientists have no interest in increasing the production of tobacco. See > CROPS, A5

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

Islamist extremism poses an existential threat on a global scale to one of the most powerful roles in shaping 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, See > TRUMP, A8

INFLUENCE general might bring to White House > A3

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 ZeVion, 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 said.

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 region.

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

Trump ally wants some protests to be felonies

By JIM BRUNNER
Seattle Times political reporter

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

that cause what he labels "economic terrorism."

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

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

State Sen. Doug Ericksen



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