# BENING AT HER BEST

★★★½ '20th Century Women'

**MOVIETIMES > E13**

## Seattle treehouse for sale for $475,000 cash

**BUSINESS > A10**

Another mess: Seahawks may lose 2nd-round pick in draft **STONE > C1**

# FOOD-SAFETY TWIST

## New emojis grade restaurants on a curve



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

*Khanhvan "K.V." Tran says scoring on a curve "takes away from the hard work" of restaurants that do excellent work on food safety. She and her husband operate Dong Thap Noodles in Seattle's Chinatown International District.*

**BY ZIP CODE** | Eateries' food safety will be graded only in comparison to their neighbors' under the new King County system. That means cafes in different places can get the same inspection results but end up rated differently.

By BETHANY JEAN CLEMENT
*Seattle Times food writer*

The Seattle area is finally getting window placards in restaurants showing ratings for food safety, but it's grading on a curve.

Rather than grading all local restaurants as a group on matters such as hand washing, temperature control of food, and serving practices, officials from Public Health - Seattle & King County have chosen to divide them into ZIP codes. About half of all restaurants in a given ZIP code receive an "excellent" grade, regardless of their actual scores.

The scale goes like this: The highest-scoring 50 percent of restaurants in each area will be rated as "excellent," the next 40 percent as "good," and 10 percent as "okay." The "needs to improve" category — restaurants that have been shut down for health violations within the last year or that "needed multiple return inspections to fix food safety practices" — is considered separately and not graded on the curve.

Two restaurants with the exact same inspection score in two different ZIP codes can receive different grades. A restaurant deemed "good" in one area might qualify as "excellent" in another. Customers who are especially susceptible to foodborne illness — pregnant women, small children, the elderly, cancer patients, the immunocompromised — would not be comparing like to like when it comes to restaurant-

See > **RESTAURANTS, A6**

Public Health
Seattle & King County

# FOOD SAFETY RATING

This business has received a food safety rating of:

😄 **EXCELLENT**

Possible ratings:
😐 NEEDS TO IMPROVE   🙂 OKAY   😊 GOOD   😄 EXCELLENT

www.KingCounty.gov/FoodSafetyRating

KING COUNTY

*King County restaurants will soon start posting storefront signs that display health-inspection status at a glance.*

## Frustration escalates with breakdowns at light-rail stations

**LATEST TROUBLE SPOT: UW STATION**

**Frequent snafus irk riders, taxpayers**

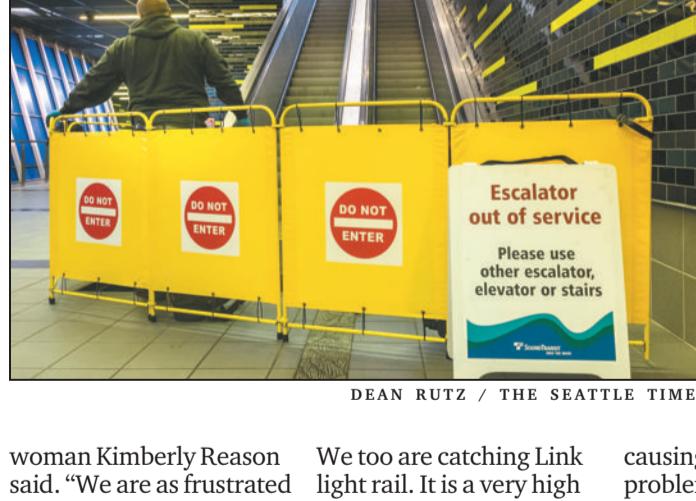By MIKE LINDBLOM
*Seattle Times transportation reporter*

The University of Washington light-rail station isn't quite a year old, but its escalators are malfunctioning.

Three were idle mid-

week, after breakdowns at neighboring Capitol Hill Station that stopped a pair of escalators for a couple weeks in December.

Those are the latest in a litany of failures throughout the 20-mile light-rail corridor that have become an everyday condition.

"This poor performance of our escalators is not up to our expectations," Sound Transit spokes-

woman Kimberly Reason said. "We are as frustrated as our riders; we understand the inconvenience. We too are catching Link light rail. It is a very high priority for us, to get to the root cause of what's

causing all these escalator problems."

As of Thursday, two

See > **FRUSTRATION, A9**



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

*The UW station's boarding platforms are 95 feet deep, making escalators crucial there, but three are broken. And station designers didn't provide stairs, except an emergency set.*

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CHRIS KLEPONIS / EPA

*President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday.*

## Day of pomp and politics has message in everything

By NANCY BENAC
*The Associated Press Writer*

WASHINGTON — From a morning stop at church through the swearing-in to the last dance of the evening, it's going to be an inaugural marathon Friday. Donald Trump, the 45th president, will take Washington by storm, no matter what the weather. Which, by the way, looked like rain as of late Thursday.

Some things to watch for on Inauguration Day:

**MORE INSIDE**

Intel agencies probe possible links between Trump advisers, Russia >A3

The day's schedule in D.C. > A7

Women's marches may form biggest inauguration demonstration in U.S. history > B1

**35 OR 39?**

Trump's oath of office is the only essential on this day; all the rest is window dressing. The Constitution sets out a 35-word oath for the new president. Some presidents make it 39 by tacking on "so help me God." There are conflicting stories about when the ad-lib start-

See > **TRUMP, A7**

## Tough questions after Treasury pick failed to disclose $95M in assets

By JIM PUZZANGHERA
*Los Angeles Times (TNS)*

WASHINGTON — Steven Mnuchin, the Wall Street executive tapped by President-elect Donald Trump to be the next Treasury secretary, faced some of the most blistering personal attacks of any Cabinet pick so far as Democrats accused him of foreclosing on the homes of thousands of struggling Americans while head of a Southern California bank, even as he helped rich hedge-fund clients shelter their wealth offshore.

Mnuchin was on the defensive during a more than five-hour confirmation hearing

See > **MNUCHIN, A8**

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