

# MY FUNNY VIADUCT

Our elevated highway has paved a path to our hearts

PACIFIC NW MAGAZINE



## A perfect finish

Nathan Hale beats Garfield for 3A basketball title **SPORTS > C1**

## In a style rut?

7 Seattle-area fashion bloggers share their tips **NW ARTS&LIFE > H1**

MARCH 5, 2017



CLOUDY, RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS  
High, 42. Low, 32. > B8  
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# The Seattle Times Sunday

WINNER OF 10 PULITZER PRIZES



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## Chemicals pollute wells near Navy airstrips on Whidbey



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Jim Heindinger put in a new well a year ago. But now the Navy is supplying him with bottled water because chemicals once used in firefighting foam are in the groundwater, at a level beyond the EPA guideline. Seven other wells also tested above the limit.

### ENVIRONMENT | Residents worry about the water they've been drinking; more tests coming

By HAL BERNTON  
Seattle Times staff reporter

COUPEVILLE, Island County — In early December, Jim Heindinger got disturbing news about the well that supplies water for his Whidbey Island home.

Heindinger lives near a Navy airfield, and a laboratory analysis showed contamination — at levels more than triple an Environmental Protection Agency guideline — for chemicals found in aviation firefighting foam.

A Navy representative hand-carried the results to his door and left behind bottled water to drink in

place of tap.

For Heindinger, this revelation left him wondering about his future. "I have \$20,000 invested in something — my well — that now is useless," Heindinger said. "If it can't be fixed, how would I ever sell my property?"

So far, the Navy has tested more than 170 island wells and found foam contaminants in Heindinger's well and seven others, at levels above the EPA guideline. Residents who got the bad news have expressed worry, and sometimes anger, as they learn their well water is suddenly off-limits. And as they

See > **WATER, A13**



HAL BERNTON / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Navy has drilled monitoring wells around the Coupeville airstrip after detecting traces of hazardous chemicals.

## Husky crew rosters include women who never rowed

TIMES WATCHDOG

UW team numbers were inflated in years of reports, avoiding Title IX scrutiny

By CHRISTINE WILLMSEN  
Seattle Times staff reporter

The University of Washington listed Cassie McMaster as a member of its 2013 women's rowing team. But McMaster says that not only has she never practiced with the team, she never even stepped into a boat.

Although McMaster didn't contribute to the crew team on the water, UW did benefit by counting McMaster on its official roster. Her name and others were used to help the school show compliance with Title IX, a federal law requiring schools to offer equal athletic opportunities for women and men.

A Seattle Times investigation found dozens of women who appear to have not been on the women's rowing team but whom the UW counted as crew participants in reports to federal officials over the past several years. The Times spoke with eight of those women who, like McMaster, said they weren't on the crew team and did not know that UW had counted them as a member until they'd been told as much by a reporter.

The discrepancies raise questions  
See > **ROWING, A4**

## Trump claims Obama tapped phones a month before election

NO EVIDENCE GIVEN

Allegations 'simply false,' Obama spokesman says

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR AND MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT  
The New York Times

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Without offering any evidence or providing the source of his information, President Donald Trump on Saturday accused former President Barack Obama of tapping his phones at Trump Tower the month before the election, taking to Twitter to call his predecessor a "bad (or sick) guy."

Trump fired off a series of Twitter messages claiming that Obama "had my 'wires tapped.'" He likened the supposed tapping to "Nixon/Watergate" and "McCarthyism."

A spokesman for Obama said any  
See > **WIRETAP, A7**

## GOP obstetrician out to deliver Obamacare repeal

FOE OF 'FREEDOM-KILLING' COVERAGE MANDATES

Congressman a favorite of health-industry insiders

By ALEX DAUGHERTY  
McClatchy Washington Bureau (TNS)

DENTON, Texas — Republicans are under pressure to deliver an Affordable Care Act repeal plan, and one of the crucial behind-the-scenes players is Congress' longest-serving doctor, a low-key policy wonk with close ties to the health-care industry.

Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas,



Rep. Michael Burgess, chair of key House subcommittee

who previously worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist, is chairman of the House subcommittee assigned to determine what parts — if any — of Barack Obama's health-care law would remain in Trump's America.

"I favor success over and above everything else," Burgess said in an interview. "To me, success means we got rid of the individual mandate and then

whatever other parts we can take care of."

For Burgess, the path to changing the law is clear — and it won't need 60 votes in the Senate to pass.

Getting rid of the individual and employer coverage mandates is Burgess' top priority. Penalties for declining to purchase health insurance would also go away, as would Medicaid expansion. But he thinks two popular provisions should stay: Parents would be able to keep their children on their health-care plans until age 26, and coverage of pre-existing conditions would remain unchanged.

"I do realize some of the other

voices that percolate around the halls have said we ought to do something simultaneously, but right now I can control what I can control," Burgess said.

Burgess' experience in Washington has made him a favorite of health-care-industry insiders. His top campaign contributors are doctors, drug companies and HMOs, and 12 bills he sponsored in the past Congress received lobbying from companies that donated at least \$10,000 to his re-election campaign.

"A lot of people can make broad comments about the health-care

See > **HEALTH CARE, A12**

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