

ROOT FOR ZAGS, DUCKS?

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NW TUESDAY > B1



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TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017



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The Seattle Times

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Seattle rents surging again; winter dip was just a blip

LOWER-COST OUTLYING AREAS SEE BIGGEST INCREASES

Relief possible in next few years as thousands of new units open

By MIKE ROSENBERG
Seattle Times business reporter

After a brief winter slowdown in rising rents, tenants across the Seattle region are back dealing with the same old discouraging story: Rents are shooting right back up again.

But there is some promising news: Hot neighborhoods with lots of apartment construction are finally starting to see some slight rent relief, and a lot more building is on the way.

A pair of new reports from the region's two major apartment survey firms —

Dupre + Scott and Apartment Insights Washington — provide the first look of the year at the local rental market. The results were disappointing for renters, who had gained some optimism amid a record apartment-construction spree and a report late last year showing rents had actually dropped slightly from fall to winter.

But now that dip is looking more like a blip than the start of a new trend.

Average rents across the region are up about 1.1 percent from last quarter and

See > **RENTERS, A10**

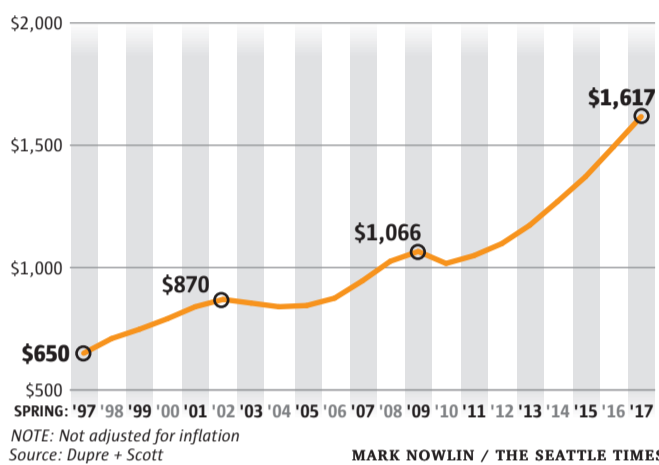
ON THE WEB

In case you missed it:

Read about the Seattle City Council's vote to form the nation's first renters' commission at seattletimes.com

Rents soar again in King County

Rents increased 8.3 percent in King County from a year ago, similar to spring increases seen in the last several years.



Trump turns to Dems for vote on Gorsuch

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

'Nuclear option' may be used to break filibuster

By DAVID HAWKINGS
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's first quest for a hard eight began long before Neil Gorsuch's days as a Senate witness made it as easy as it's ever going to be for the president to win his first big judicial bet.



Nominee Neil Gorsuch

That's still not going to be that easy. While politically plausible, it's hardly a sure thing Trump will find eight Democratic senators willing to abandon their party on the first filibuster of the year.

In fact, by the end of last week, not a single member of the minority had publicly committed to voting with the 52 members of the Republican majority to advance Gorsuch over the procedural hurdle the Democrats have promised to erect when the floor debate opens next week. Private lunches at the White House, phone calls from the president and more subtle backchannel entreaties have not yet produced any tangible reward, and time is starting to run short.

A surprisingly broad array of senators have been approached to gauge their openness to supporting Gorsuch, or at least voting to advance his nomination past the 60-vote cloture threshold to the ultimate "yes" or "no" roll call, where only 51 votes are needed.

The heart of the White House's strategy has been to win over most of the nine Democrats facing difficult re-election prospects next year in states Trump carried in the fall. Beyond that, administration officials have eyed other veteran Democrats who supported the last Supreme Court selections made by a Republican president, George W. Bush more than a decade ago, or have otherwise iconoclastic voting records in the judicial wars that have raged for three decades before Trump last month proposed elevating Gorsuch from the federal court of appeals in Denver.

Senate Democrats on Monday forced a one-week delay in a committee vote on the nominee. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, announced that, as expected, Democrats have requested a postponement. The committee vote on Gorsuch now will be

See > **GORSUCH, A7**

NUCLEAR OPTION: How the Senate vote could shift to a simple majority > **A7**

Drought and warfare create perfect storm for 4 massive famines



TYLER HICKS / THE NEW YORK TIMES

An elderly woman, displaced by the drought in Somalia, walks between makeshift tents at a camp in Baidoa recently. Six years after its last famine, another is about to tighten its grip on Somalia's food and water supply, with South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen also at risk.

SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, NIGERIA, YEMEN ALL AT RISK AT SAME TIME

Water key as 20 million lives at stake

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN
The New York Times

BAIDOA, Somalia — First the trees dried up and cracked apart.

Then the goats keeled over.

Then the water in the village well began to disappear, turning cloudy, then red, then slime-green, but the villagers kept drinking it.

That was all they had.

Now on a hot, flat, stony plateau outside Baidoa, thousands of people pack into destitute camps, many clutching their stomachs, some defecating in the open, others already dead from a cholera epidemic.

"Even if you can get food, there is no water," said one mother, Sangabo Moalin, who held her head with a left hand as thin as a leaf and spoke of her body "burning."

Another famine is about to tighten its grip on Somalia. And it's not the only crisis that aid agencies are scrambling to address. For the first time since anyone can remember,

there is a very real possibility of four famines — in Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen — breaking out at once, endangering more than 20 million lives.

International aid officials say they are facing one of the biggest humanitarian disasters since World War II. And they are determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

One powerful lesson from the last famine in Somalia, just six years ago, was that famines were not simply about food. They are about something even more elemental: water.

Once again, a lack of clean water and prop-

See > **FAMINES, A8**

King, Snohomish counties may be targets in Justice Dept. threat

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Local officials dismiss Sessions' remarks about withholding grants

By DANIEL BEEKMAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

King and Snohomish county officials Monday shrugged off remarks by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions threatening so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions for not



Jeff Sessions

withholding grants from cities and counties not in compliance with a federal law that covers communication between local governments

and federal immigration authorities.

He said the jurisdictions have policies "designed to frustrate" immigration enforcement, adding, "Such policies cannot continue. They make our nation less safe."

Sessions singled out local governments that reject at least some requests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold people in jail for possible immigration violations beyond when they would otherwise be released.

King and Snohomish counties were on a list of those jurisdictions published by the Department of Homeland Security last week.

But King County Sheriff John Urquhart said his office is in no danger of missing out on money because its policies and practices are in line with the federal law in question, U.S. Code Section 1373.

"We're not violating 1373, no way," Urquhart said. "1373 requires us to talk to immigration officials and it requires them to talk

to us, and we do that."

Shari Ireton, spokeswoman for Snohomish County Sheriff Ty Trenary, made the same point.

See > **SESSIONS, A5**

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