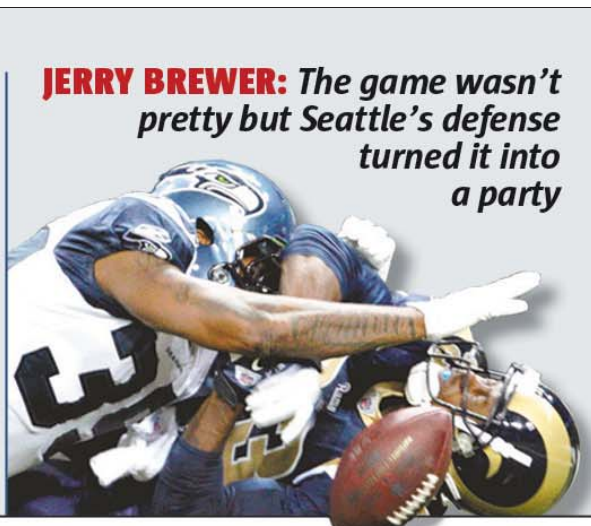




A day for defense

After a shaky start by the offense, the Hawks' defense rocked the Rams — with five sacks, three turnovers and a punishing 24-7 win

SPORTS > C1, C3-5



JERRY BREWER: The game wasn't pretty but Seattle's defense turned it into a party

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011

The Seattle Times

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State scrambles to fight massive tree die-offs

Millions of acres are at risk from bugs and disease. An emergency panel of scientists and foresters likely will focus on whether logging should be part of the solution.



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Bark beetles have damaged pine trees in the Sawtooth Ridge area above the Methow Valley in the North Cascades. The beetles are whittling away at high-elevation trees once thought mostly safe from bugs.

BY CRAIG WELCH
Seattle Times environment reporter

So many pine, fir and spruce trees in the Northwest are riddled with bugs and disease that major tree die-offs are expected to rip through a third of Eastern Washington forests — an area covering nearly 3 million acres — in the next 15 years, according to new state projections.

Because Washington's forests are deteriorating so quickly, the state commissioner of public lands last week said he'll appoint an emergency panel of scientists and foresters to seek ways to stabilize or reverse the decline.

The problem, as The Seattle Times reported earlier this month, is largely centered on tree-killing scourges such as the mountain pine beetle, which is spreading rapidly and getting into ever higher-elevation trees such as the troubled whitebark pine.

The number of acres of trees damaged in the past decade by diseases such as blister rust and invasions of western spruce budworm and bark beetles is more than twice what it was in the 1990s — and three times greater than in the 1980s.

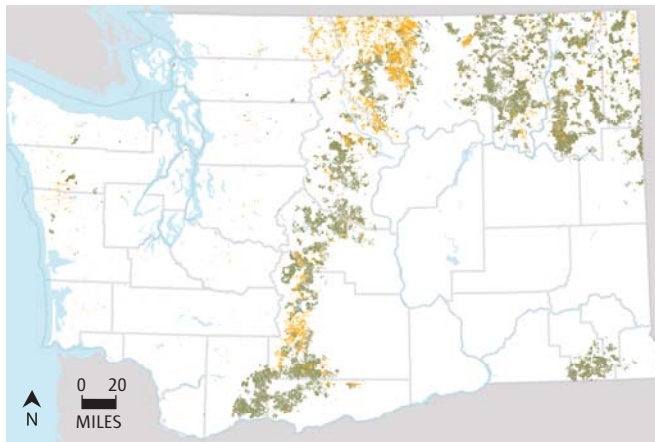
That dramatic increase has state officials eager to avoid becoming the next Colorado

See > FORESTS, A6

Dead and dying forests

Several areas in the state have seen large numbers of trees killed by insects and disease in the past 20 years. But tree die-offs in Eastern Washington are expected to increase dramatically over the next 15 years.

■ 1989-2008 cumulative tree mortality
■ Predicted tree mortality in next 15 years



The areas highlighted above show sections of Eastern Washington forest that have or are projected to have severely high densities of dead trees.

Source: Washington State Department of Natural Resources THE SEATTLE TIMES

WEB EXTRA

Read previous stories and watch a video about threats to Northwest forests at seattletimes.com

WHAT KILLED A DEBT DEAL: SLIVER OF HOPE SLIPS AWAY

'HUGE OPPORTUNITY MISSED'

One night in Murray's office, a breakthrough seemed within reach of deficit panel

BY JENNIFER STEINHAEUER
AND ROBERT PEAR
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The one sliver of real hope came a week ago, in the darkened Capitol on the Sunday night after Veterans Day.

Called away from dinner tables, the Jets-Patriots game on television and, in one case, a soccer-team party, several Democratic members of the special congressional committee on deficit reduction raced to the office of Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., for a hasty 8:30 meeting to discuss the outlines of a potential agreement. Crucially, it appeared to have the backing of at least one Republican on the 12-member panel even though it included a tax increase.

As the members spoke, they began to see the outlines of a deal, tentatively agreeing on tax rates, revenues, spending cuts, and changes to Social Security and Medicare, according to interviews with committee members and their aides.

The finish line was in sight for the first time in the nine weeks the group had been meeting.

It disappeared almost as quickly.

On Sunday, just one week after both

See > DEFICIT, A4

Home sweet 3-generation home emerges

DEMOGRAPHICS | With more extended families living together, a real-estate niche is responding with homes boasting separate entrances, two master suites and lots of privacy.

BY JOHN GITTELSOHN
Bloomberg News

LOS ANGELES — Kevin Barnes figures that buying a newly built home saved him money. That's because he chose a model with a second master bedroom for his mother-in-law.

"She's a free baby-sitter," said the 42-year-old chemical salesman, who in June purchased a four-bedroom house in Orlando, Fla., built by KB Home. "Day care costs about \$200 a week."

The Barnes residence is part of a growing line of new homes marketed to multigenerational families, a category that increased by 30 percent from 2000 to 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

KB Home, Lennar and PulteGroup are among the builders that offer models with second master bedrooms, kitchenettes and separate entrances.

Those features may help lure buyers at a time when new homes are selling at a record slow pace and more Americans

See > HOMES, A6

Frayed, bloodied Egypt heads toward new revolt

BY HANNAH ALLAM
AND MOHANNAD SABRY
McClatchy Newspapers

CAIRO — Egypt plunged deeper into political crisis just eight days before elections, as security forces attacked protesters Sunday in unrest that appears headed toward a second uprising, this time against Egypt's military rulers.

Egyptian soldiers and police set fire to protesters' tents in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the nerve center of

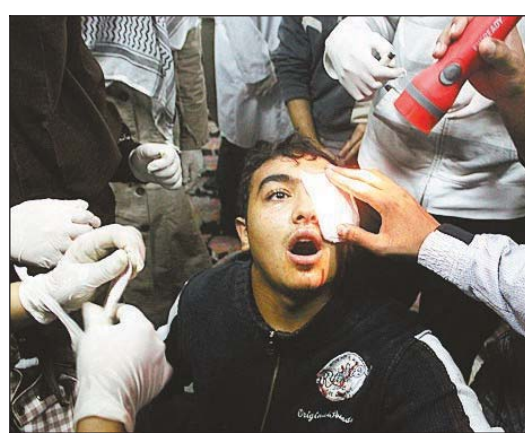
the revolt that brought down President Hosni Mubarak and left the military in charge of Egypt.

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators demanding that the military rulers quickly transfer power to a civilian government. At least 11 protesters were killed and hundreds were injured after a second day of clashes in some of the worst violence since the uprising ended Feb. 11.

Many compared the breadth and intensity of the new battles for the square — the iconic heart of the Arab Spring — to the early days of the uprising against Mubarak, only this time the target was the ruling military council's leader, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi.

See > EGYPT, A5

ATTACK SIGNALS new chapter in Syria uprising > A5



MAHMUD KHALED / AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An Egyptian protester wounded in the eye is treated at a field hospital in central Cairo after deadly clashes with security forces Sunday.

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