



SEAHAWKS EXTRA: 8-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION

> C1
LOOK FOR IT AFTER EVERY GAME

SUPER START

Seattle makes 36-16 opening statement

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Overall domination shows
Hawks are here to stay

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

The Seattle Times

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Seahawks season opener

Seattle's fantastic party roars into a new season

FRUSTRATED WATCHDOG QUITTING SHERIFF'S OFFICE POST

GAITHER CITES HOSTILITY, COMMUNICATION GAP

Sheriff, County Council dispute his criticisms

By JENNIFER SULLIVAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

Charles Gaither, the civilian in charge of outside oversight of the King County Sheriff's Office, will step down from the job Friday after what he describes as three "difficult" years.

Seated in his office Thursday morning, Gaither was visibly upset when discussing his resignation from King County's Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO). He spoke of the challenges he faced in the job, but offered no specific reason why he was leaving after less than three years.

He did say his efforts to effect change in Sheriff's Office oversight were greeted with hostility and political maneuvering by opponents, although he did not single out any individual. Gaither also said he has had little communication with Sheriff John Urquhart.



Charles Gaither cites "difficult environment."

The county disputed Gaither's claim of a lack of support for OLEO.

"Mr. Gaither's allegations regarding the County's lack of support for the mission of Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) could not be further from the truth. The Council established and has consistently funded the office, and remains fully committed to its effective oversight of law enforcement," Metropolitan King County Council Chair Larry Phillips and Councilmember Larry Gossett, chair of the council's Employment and Administration Committee, said in a joint statement.

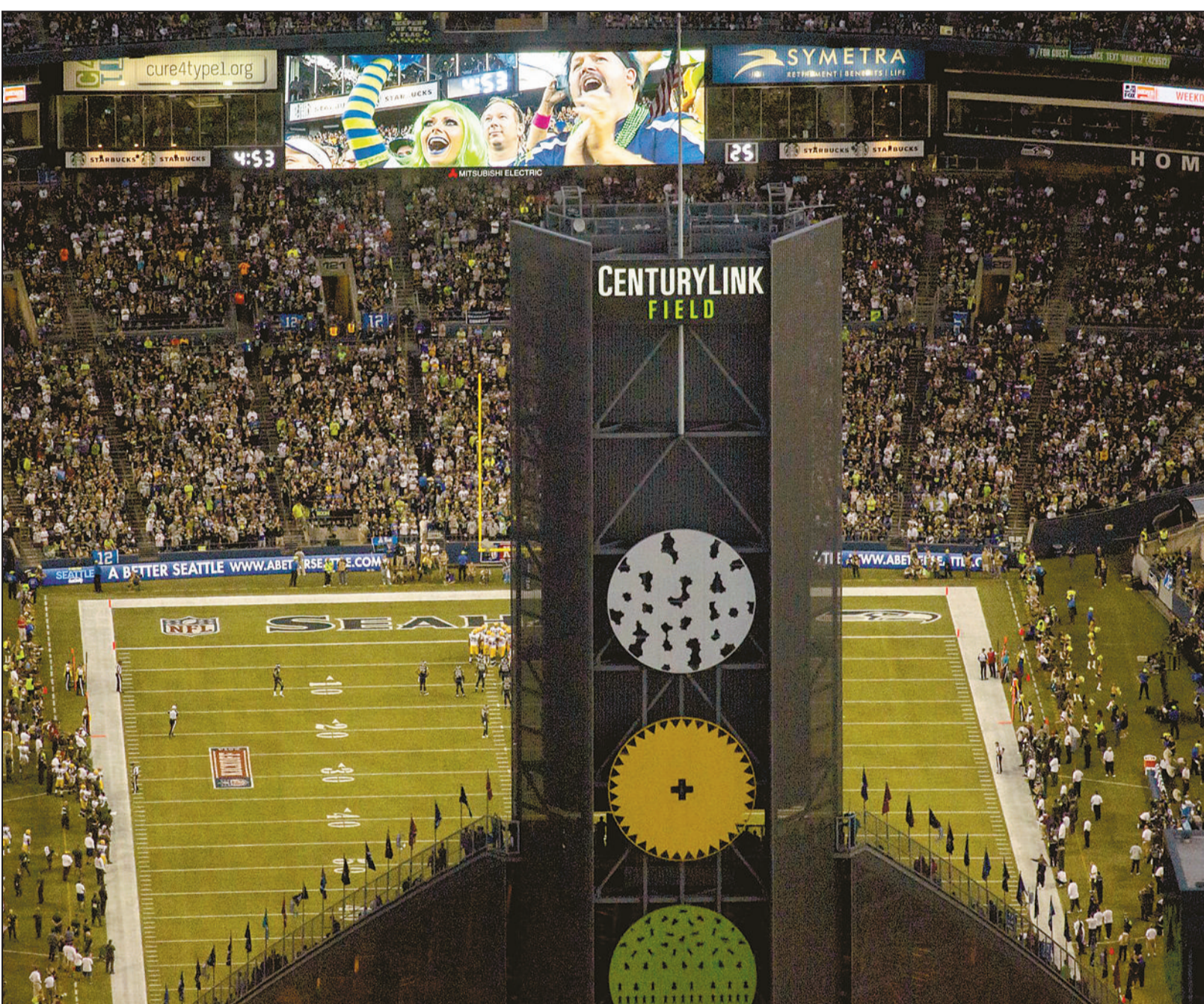
The statement also said "serious issues of his management and personnel skills — issues not related to the mission of the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight — played the central role" in discussions with Gaither that prompted his resignation.

Gaither said he had earned an unfair reputation for being "aggressive" and difficult to work with. He said that for more than a year there has been "political maneuvering" to get him to quit.

"It's a difficult environment when you don't have the capacity to compel change," Gaither said in an interview. "This was not the best recipe for effective civilian oversight in law enforcement."

The Office of Law Enforcement Oversight was created in 2006 after a blue-ribbon panel was asked to review accountability and discipline inside the Sheriff's Office. After much controversy, including an unfair-labor-practice complaint filed by the King County Police Officers Guild and extensive contract negotiations with the guild, the ordinance establishing its creation was

See > GAITHER, A4



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

CenturyLink Field is sold out and lit up Thursday night for the Seattle Seahawks home opener against the Green Bay Packers, won by the defending Super Bowl champions 36-16. This photograph was taken from the Sky View Observatory on the 73rd floor of the Columbia Center.

A festive day in Pioneer Square is capped by a Seahawk victory that proud fans predict we'll see again and again.

By JACK BROOM
Seattle Times staff reporter

The basking is over. The battle has begun. Seahawks fans were in full-throated form as the team Thursday began its quest to defend Seattle's only NFL Championship with a 36-16 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

"This is exactly the way I saw it going down," said fan Alton Jenkins of Tacoma, as the Hawks pulled away in the fourth quarter. "We've got some energy carried over from the Super Bowl season."

"I could see another Super Bowl coming," said Jenkins, who has had season tickets in his family for more than 30 years. But echoing Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, Jenkins added, "They have to take it one game at a time."

PREGAME CONCERT

Pharrell Williams, Soundgarden turn CenturyLink's north parking lot into a "Happy" zone. > A4

The nationally televised game at CenturyLink Field capped a mammoth civic celebration that was part street fair, part pep rally and part free concert. The extravaganza taxed the ability of transit services to get people into the Pioneer Square area, and at least one parking lot near the stadium was charging upward of \$100 a space.

Just before the game, a 30-yard-wide banner was unfurled at midfield, proclaiming Seattle's Super Bowl title.

Even when Green Bay led 7-3 at the end of

the first quarter, true blue fans didn't panic.

"It's all good. All good," said fan Floyd Lively of Seattle. "You don't want to whip on Green Bay. You want to keep it interesting and then shut them down at the end."

As if on his cue, the Hawks marched for a quick second-quarter touchdown, taking a 10-7 lead.

Fan confidence grew as the Hawks built a 17-10 lead at the half. On a halftime break, Sue Martin of Everett, said, "We're OK. We're fine. I'm not 100 percent excited yet, because there's room for improvement."

"But we know we're going to win," chimed in Martin's mother, Judy Bradley. "There's no question about that."

Martin said she's well aware of the challenge the Seahawks face in trying for a rare Super Bowl sequel. "It's like all of a sudden, everyone hates our guts."

With the Seahawks game inaugurating the 2014 season, fans showed up as long as 12 hours before kickoff to see radio and TV net-

See > SEAHAWKS, A4

Yelp free to rank business based on ads, court says

ONLINE REVIEW SITE

Suit alleged positioning favored those who bought ads, hurt those who didn't

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Online-review site Yelp can lower or raise the

rating of a business depending on whether it advertises with the company, a federal appeals court ruled in a lawsuit filed by small businesses claiming Yelp used the tactic to try to extort ads from them.

Yelp has denied that, saying it uses an automated system to cull reviews that determine ratings.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that even if

Yelp did manipulate reviews to penalize businesses, the practice would not constitute extortion. The court said businesses do not have a right to positive reviews on Yelp, and that the San Francisco-based company can seek payments for its advertising.

"The business owners may deem the posting or order of user reviews as a threat of economic harm, but it

is not unlawful for Yelp to post and sequence the reviews," Judge Marsha Berzon wrote for the three-judge panel. "As Yelp has the right to charge for legitimate advertising services, the threat of economic harm that Yelp leveraged is, at most, hard bargaining."

Berzon said the plaintiffs could pursue other claims involving Yelp,

See > YELP, A4

COMEDY PIONEER JOAN RIVERS DIES

Raspy, irreverent comic skewered everything, even herself > A3



LAKESIDE SCHOOL'S SPORTS TACTICS PROBED

Elite school requests independent review after Times story detailing how it pushed limits of prep-sports rules > B1

HOME SALES AND PRICES CALM A BIT

August brings "a balancing" after early-summer frenzy > A6



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