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SPORTS > C1



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## THE RETURN OF THE REDFISH

Sockeye are rebounding, but the extraordinary effort comes at a cost to the public — nearly \$9,000 per fish.



PHOTOS BY STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

A Snake River sockeye is captured for its genes after swimming more than 900 miles to reach its spawning grounds.

BY LYNDA V. MAPES / Seattle Times staff reporter

REDFISH LAKE CREEK, Idaho —

A vermilion slash in clear, cold water, the Snake River sockeye in this mountain stream is one of nature's long-distance athletes, traveling at least 900 miles to get here.

That this fish can make such a journey — the longest of any sockeye in the world — is remarkable. But it's more incredible that this fish is still around at all.

Down to just one known fish — dubbed Lonesome Larry — in 1992, state, tribal and federal fish managers have painstakingly preserved the species in captivity ever since.

Twenty years and \$40 million later, they have a new goal. Not just mere survival for Snake River sockeye, but rebuilding the run to at least 2,500 wild fish, free of any hatchery influence, making the epic journey all the way from

See > **SOCKEYE, A16**



A Snake River sockeye gets an inoculation at the Eagle Hatchery, near Boise.

### By the numbers

**1**  
The number of known sockeye — it was dubbed Lonesome Larry — that returned to Redfish Lake Creek in 1992.

**900**  
The number of miles sockeye travel to reach Redfish Lake Creek.

**\$8,785**  
The estimated amount utility ratepayers have spent for each sockeye to reach Idaho since 1991.

### TIMESWATCHDOG

## Amazon sellers feeling burned

SMALL MERCHANTS COMPLAIN TO STATE

Money tied up for months, some say

BY AMY MARTINEZ  
Seattle Times business reporter

For many small merchants, selling on Amazon.com is an easy way to boost their business in a tough economy — if only they can get paid.

Dozens of online sellers complain that Amazon arbitrarily withholds their payments for as long as three months, jeopardizing their ability to replenish inventories and stay in business, according to a Seattle Times review of state records.

Sellers who say they've been hurt by this practice are the single most common source of complaints filed against Amazon with the Washington state Attorney General's Office over the past three years, The Times found.

All told, the AG's Office received more than 370 complaints against Amazon, ranging from customers worried about their online privacy to game-app developers demanding better financial terms.

But about 40 percent of the complaints came from small merchants who use Amazon's Web platform to sell their products. And of those, three-fourths — nearly 120 sellers — complained that Seattle-based Amazon abruptly suspended or closed their accounts, tying up anywhere from several hundred dollars to more than \$20,000.

In many cases, the world's largest Internet retailer stacked the deck against them by providing no

See > **AMAZON, A12**

**BOOTED OFF:** Lost Amazon accounts a big blow to some businesses > A12

## New tools, tactics reshape battle zone for Israel, Hamas

BY ARON HELLER / The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — With pinpoint airstrikes on militant targets in the Gaza Strip and Iranian-made rockets flying deep into Israel, the current conflagration between Israel and Hamas reflects the vast changes that have taken place on the battlefield in just four years.

Israel, armed with precise intelligence and newly developed munitions, has carried out hundreds of surgical airstrikes in a campaign meant to hit militants hard while avoiding the civilian casualties that have marred previous offensives.

Hamas, meanwhile, has not been stopped from firing its new longer-range rockets that shocked Israelis by reaching the areas around Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for the first time, and has revealed a variety of new weapons.

Rocket fire from Gaza into Israel subsided Saturday night as Egyptian-led cease-fire efforts appeared to gain momentum, but Israel pressed ahead with airstrikes on Palestinian rocket squads, smuggling tunnels and other targets. Thousands of

See > **GAZA, A14**

## IN LIFE AND LYRIC, HOMEGROWN CARLILE AT TOP OF GAME



**Nicole Brodeur**  
Seattle Times staff columnist  
It has finally all come together for Brandi Carlile.

Praise for the singer/songwriter's talent is growing by the moment, perhaps because she covers so much ground: blues, country, rock.

But it's the voice that has gripped people; it's like a fire that blazes, cracks and then warms the loneliest heart.

Carlile's fifth and latest album, "Bear Creek," debuted at No. 10 on the Billboard 200 in June, putting her in a room with heavyweights like Neil Young, John Mayer and Carrie Underwood.

Best of all, Carlile is newly married to Catherine Shepherd, a Brit. They have settled in Maple Valley, happy to be in a state where same-sex marriage will be legal in a matter of days.

It is a right Carlile, 31, campaigned for, but missed seeing approved here.

She was in San Diego, on a tour that will bring her back to Seattle on Friday, Saturday and next Sunday when she will perform three

See > **BRODEUR, A17**



Brandi Carlile

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