**Happily** un-hip, West **Seattle** keeps its soul

**PACIFIC NW** 

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### YAKIMA RIVER BASIN PROJECT

After years of beating down each other's proposals, Eastern Washington farmers, the Yakama Indian Nation and conservationists have teamed up to push a multibillion-dollar proposal that offers something for all of them: more water, fish passages at dams and more land protected from development. But will it fly?

# LONGTIME FOES UNITE **OVER WATER PLAN**



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Urban Eberhart, an Ellensburg farmer, holds what could be a glimpse of the future: a state Ecology map of the Wymer Dam and Reservoir that he hopes will be built directly behind him across this valley.

By ANDREW GARBER Seattle Times Olympia bureau

**OUNT BALDY RANCH, Kittitas** County — When Urban Eberhart looks out over this deep, sagebrush-covered valley south of Ellensburg, he envisions a towering concrete wall stretching 3,200 feet across the expanse to hold back 50 billion gallons of water.

The Wymer Dam and Reservoir is part of a much larger, roughly \$4.2 billion proposal to provide more water for fish, and farmers like Eberhart, in the droughtprone Yakima Valley over the next 30 years. The effort, if it pans out, would be the biggest thing to hit the region since the Grand Coulee Dam was completed in

See > WATER PLAN, A12



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Michael Garrity of American Rivers crouches in the Teanaway, which is being protected from development.

In a rare interview, Paul Allen discusses everything from brain science to the chances of Seattle getting an NBA team anytime soon.



DEAN RUTZ / THE TIMES

### Q&A: a glimpse into life of Paul Allen

**Brier Dudley** Seattle Times technology columnist

Inside the velvet-walled inner chamber of his EMP Museum in Seattle, Paul Allen is in a good mood.

Top researchers are gathered downstairs for a symposium, marking the 10th anniversary of the renowned Allen Institute for Brain Science. His Seattle Seahawks look like a Super Bowl team.

And Jimi Hendrix is playing on the 60-foot video display just outside the "blue room" where artists hang out before performing in Allen's psychedelic palace of music.

In a rare and far-ranging interview, the Microsoft co-founder talked about new frontiers in medicine that he's helping to explore,

See > BRIER, A9

## Just how affordable will health care be?

**ANALYSIS** 

Perception of costs will vary widely, from subsidized premiums to higher co-pays

BY ELISABETH ROSENTHAL The New York Times

It is no wonder the Obama administration branded its signature health-care legislation the Affordable Care Act. For many Americans the basic problem with medicine — health insurance and health care — is that it has become too expensive, especially in a sluggish economy.

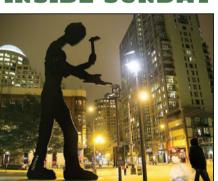
As Americans begin signing up this week to buy insurance, they will begin to test the legislation's tantalizing promise to make health care financially viable. Will the policies deliver care at manageable prices, or will "affordable" seem like a hollow promotion?

That probably depends a lot on patients' needs, where they live and — importantly — their preconceptions of what health insurance is supposed to do, experts say.

The insurance marketplaces, or exchanges, will sell four levels of plan – bronze, silver, gold and platinum — with See > HEALTH CARE, A7

**UNHEALTHY TALK:** Exposing top myths about Obamacare > A7 **DANNY WESTNEAT:** Companies using law as excuse to end coverage > B1

### INSIDE SUNDAY



### **CELEBRATING SEATTLE'S ENDURING PUBLIC ART**

Seattle Times arts writer Michael Upchurch picks his 10 favorite works. NWARTS&LIFE > H1

#### **EDITORIAL: PORT OF SEATTLE DESERVES MORE FROM REGION**

The Port of Seattle has been an economic engine for the region for more than a century. But the Panama Canal widening and competition from other ports threaten its future. Time for regional leaders to pay attention. OPINION > A14





