



**Huskies hope Sankey** doesn't have to carry the load sports > c1



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# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 The Seattle Times

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# Leaders bicker, shutdown looms

## HOUSE CUTS HEALTH FUNDING; OBAMA FIRES BACK: 'THEY'RE FOCUSED ON TRYING TO MESS WITH ME'

BY JONATHAN WEISMAN The New York Times

WASHINGTON — House Republicans muscled through a stopgap bill Friday that would fund the government only if all spending for President Obama's health-care law is eliminated.

Senate Democrats and Obama made it clear they had no intention of going along, putting the federal government on a course toward a

shutdown unless one side relents. The 230-189 vote set in motion a

fiscal confrontation with significant implications, politically and economically.

Without a resolution, large parts of the government could shut down Oct. 1, and a first-ever default on federal debt could follow weeks later. Each side predicted the other would be held responsible.

Two Democrats — Reps. Jim

Matheson of Utah and Mike McIntyre of North Carolina — joined Republicans in approving the bill. One Republican voted against it: Rep. Scott Rigell of Virginia, whose district has a heavy military pres-

Obama called House Speaker John Boehner late Friday, but only to repeat that he would not negotiate with him on raising the federal debt limit and said it was Congress' constitutional obligation to pay the nation's bills.

Senate Democratic leaders prepared to answer the House move with a vote to strip the health-care provision from the spending bill, and send it back to the House with little time for Republicans to change it. Boehner would then face a decision on how to respond.

After the House vote, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the No. 2 House Republican, called out by name Democratic senators running for re-election in Republican states, daring them to stand by the healthcare law.

"We're in this fight and we want the Senate to join us," Cantor said at a Republican rally celebrating

passage of the spending bill. Visiting Missouri, Obama struck back at Republicans a few hours

See > SHOWDOWN, A4

# New heart for Rainier Beach

**SUNDAY OPENING** | Eco-friendly community center is full of natural light and spaces for classes, recreation and nonprofit services, and pools for the city's busiest aquatics program.



PHOTOS BY ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Art points the way to the main desk at the new Rainier Beach Community Center. The "1 percent for the arts" piece is by Roy McMakin and Jeffry Mitchell. Seattle officials dug deep to find money for the new facility during a period of budget cuts and staff layoffs.

By ALEXA VAUGHN Seattle Times staff reporter

hree years ago in the rundown Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool, buckets caught water leaks, and disabled people had to use a difficult ramp to get to the dank, sunless gym in the basement.

"It was a definite teardown," said recreation-center coordinator Martha Winther. The center was leveled in 2011, and its

\$25 million replacement will be revealed Sunday. Everything is on the 48,500-square-foot

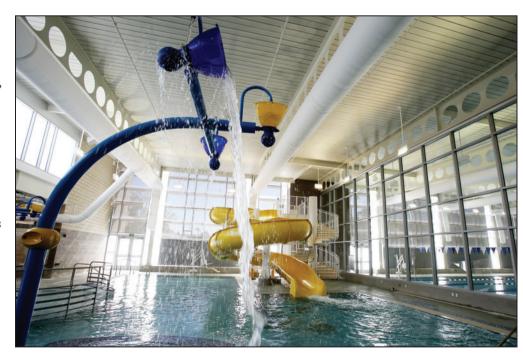
**66** That community has a lot of kids that face a lot of challenges. I'm glad we can now open this up to them." MAYOR MIKE MCGINN

center's main floor, where natural light pours into every space and a bold interior design welcomes every visitor. The only hint of the past are salvaged wooden beams that decorate the center's exterior and interior

The building uses a

long list of eco-friendly elements such as natural ventilation, a rainwater-harvesting system that supplies 90 percent of toilet water, and a geothermal-energy system. Solar panels do most of the work of warming water for a large lap pool and a recreational pool. The latter includes a shallow baby wading pool, a corkscrewing water slide with two 360-degree turns, and playful water sprays above a "lazy river."

A giant, three-dimensional hand designed



Plenty of window light and pool space could help make the new \$25 million Rainier Beach Community Center the new flagship of Seattle's community centers.

by artists Roy McMakin and Jeffry Mitchell floats from the ceiling and points to the main desk, where staff can help people register for exercise, music, art and cooking classes. Fall classes include instruction in hip-hop dancing, ukulele and frosting decoration.

Police Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin's locally famous chess lessons also will be

**EDITORIALS** 

See > RAINIER, A4

#### **Rainier Beach Community Center** and Pool grand opening

Sunday, 2-5 p.m.

8825 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle WA 98118 Activities: Tours, music, refreshments, class

sign-ups

# **SYRIA LISTS CHEMICAL WEAPONS CACHE FOR INSPECTORS**

**FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATING STOCKPILE** 

U.S. noncommittal as parties await translation

BY SHASHANK BENGALI Tribune Washington Bureau

government submitted an "initial disclosure" of its chemical weapons to international inspectors, officials said Friday, the first step under an ambitious deal that aims to eliminate President Bashar Assad's illicit poison-gas arsenal.

Experts at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, Netherlands, began translating the document from Arabic and reviewing its contents, but organization officials released few details.

It thus wasn't clear if Syria's disclosure met the terms of last week's U.S.-Russia agreement, which called for Assad to submit by Saturday "a comprehensive listing, including names, types and quantities of its chemicalweapons agents, types of muni-

See > SYRIA, A4

# **British miffed** as literary prize is now open to Americans

By STEVEN ERLANGER The New York Times

LONDON — The Americans are coming, and the British literary world is not happy.

The Man Booker Prize, which had been open to English-language novels from Britain and the Commonwealth, has just gone global, producing anxiety about damage to cultural diversity and fears that the U.S. cultural hyperpower that dominates movies and television will crush the small literary novel.

"It's rather like a British company being taken over by some worldwide conglomerate," said Melvyn Bragg, an author and television host in Britain.

The Booker Prize for fiction, begun in 1969, was always something Britain and its former

See > BOOKER, A5

## **BUSINESS**

BlackBerry: Big loss, deep job cuts > A6 **OPINION** 

Fast-food-worker pay: a debate > A9

## **SPORTS**

Toe injury sidelines Okung for at least eight games > C1 Storm falls to Lynx in playoff game > C1



Index	
ASK AMY	NWSATURDAY E
BUSINESS, STOCKS	A6
COMICS, PUZZLES	NWSATURDAY B5
CROSSWORDS	NWSATURDAY E
DEATHS FLINEDALS	NIM/CATLIDDAY D

		FAITH & VALUES	NWSATURDAY B2
	NWSATURDAY B7	LOCAL NEWS	NWSATURDAY B1
	A6-8	LOTTERY, CORRECTION	IS A2
	NWSATURDAY B5-7	MOVIE LISTINGS	NWSATURDAY B4
	NWSATURDAY B6	SPORTS ON TV, RADIO	SPORTS C2
ò	NWSATURDAY B2	WEATHER	NWSATURDAY B8
	Α9	YOUR SATURDAY	NWSATURDAY B4

2	Classified ads	
1	NWHOMES	SECTION D
2	HOMES/RENTALS	D26-27
4	MERCH., PETS, GARAGE SALES	D26-27
2	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	B2
0	DURING MOTICES	ro

