

Logan Morrison goes 4-for-4 with two HRs



M'S BLAST BOSOX, 12-3

Felix gets run support and then some
SPORTS > C1

Hope Solo denies assault

NW TUESDAY > B1



Bellevue homebuilder is sold

BUSINESS > A7

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

The Seattle Times

WINNER OF NINE PULITZER PRIZES



CHANCE OF SHOWERS
High, 69. Low, 55. > B8
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Iraq chaos putting pinch on oil

U.S. DRIVERS SEEING PRICE BUMP AT THE PUMP

Oil production already halted in Libya, Sudan and Nigeria

Seattle Times news services

BAGHDAD — The turmoil in Iraq is endangering the country's revival into a leading oil producer and continued disruption would further spike global oil prices and raise gasoline costs in America.

The chaos has sent oil prices rising, as government forces and militants battle over the country's largest refinery. Iraq's big oil fields, which account for at least 75 percent of Iraq's production of 3.4 million barrels a day, are far from the

fighting, but there are fears that the fractured nation could struggle to help meet future world demand.

The U.S. imports only about 300,000 barrels a day from Iraq, but the motor club AAA, which monitors gasoline prices, says U.S. See > IRAQ, A3

COURT RULING: Emission limits OK on big industry > A 4

State gas prices

Average price for a gallon of regular gasoline across Washington state, reported by the Washington state AAA auto club

Monday
\$3.98

One year ago
\$3.81

National gas prices

Average price for a gallon of regular gas across the country, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration and Lundberg Survey

Monday
\$3.70*

One year ago
\$3.59

*The highest level for late June since June 2008.

City Light leader fell for 'Indian' copper con

JIM COSTA
(aka Joe Wolf)



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

Jim Costa, 53, above, called himself Joe Wolf as he and partner Michael George, at right, told City Light officials they ran a charity for disabled Indian children.



MICHAEL GEORGE
(aka Michael Little Bear)



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

Michael George, 47, used the last name Little Bear. He and Costa were photographed in Indian garb during a similar rip-off at SAFE Boats in Bremerton.



787 work from S.C. still poses problems

By DOMINIC GATES
Seattle Times aerospace reporter

Last Thursday, Boeing paid out big bonuses to its South Carolina workforce for meeting an early May deadline to significantly reduce the amount of unfinished 787 Dreamliner work traveling to Everett.

But an unusual production mishap on the 787 assembly line in Everett two days earlier reveals a continued problem with incomplete fuselage sections from South Carolina, according to employees with knowledge of what happened.

And a day after that incident, production of the jet suffered another blow. In an accident unrelated to the South Carolina work, an Everett mechanic on the same 787 assembly line was seriously injured.

The first mishap was traced to work done inside the Everett factory by a team from Boeing's plant in South Carolina.

This team is in Everett to help com- See > 787, A6

Council puts two preschool plans on ballot

By JOHN HIGGINS
Seattle Times education reporter

A fight simmering for months between Seattle City Council president Tim Burgess and two unions that together represent 1,500 child-care workers in Seattle will be settled by voters in November.

The City Council voted unanimously Monday to place a \$58 million property-tax levy on the November ballot to boost the quality and affordability of preschool in Seattle.

They also voted to put Initiative 107, a separate union-backed child-care proposal that was supported by nearly 22,000 signatures, on the November ballot.

However, the council voted to consider it a competing, rather than complementary measure. That means voters will have to choose between them rather than voting for both. See > PRESCHOOL, A5

Chance meeting in lobby led to 20-ton heist by fast-talking pair

By CAITLIN CRUZ
Seattle Times staff reporter

Last year, two men claiming to be members of the Cherokee Nation who had traveled from Oklahoma came to Seattle with a simple goal: score some scrap copper.

Dressed in beads and fringed suede, with one wearing a cap that said "Native," they headed to the offices of Seattle City Light, where they chanced upon its superintendent, Jorge Carrasco, in the lobby. They told him they ran a nonprofit that taught disabled children how to make jewelry and needed some copper wire.

TIMESWATCHDOG

Minutes after meeting them, Carrasco authorized the men to be given some scrap. But the two were actually con men. Once inside City Light's secure facilities, they were able to drive off with 20 tons of copper wire and scrap metal worth \$120,000.

Police described the two key suspects, Michael George (aka Michael Little Bear) and Jim Costa (aka Joe Wolf), as organized criminals who have pulled off scrap-metal heists across the country. Seattle police later recovered the stolen copper. See > HEIST, A6

A detailed account of this episode can be found in records recently compiled by The Seattle Times, including police records, a 2013 internal report by City Light and an audit by the city of Seattle released June 6.

City Light's earlier accounts of the copper theft did not mention the role of Carrasco.

Because of his involvement, lower-level supervisors and employees who helped the suspects load the copper into a rental truck, but suspected something was wrong, said they didn't speak out because they were afraid of being considered "insubordinate"

See > HEIST, A6

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7:05 PM

GAME TIME

Springtime is Mariners time. The Seattle Times is there for every play, bringing you in-depth sports analysis all season long.



Bettina Hansen / The Seattle Times

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