

PILING ON THE POINTS

Huskies dominate Purdue with 49-13 victory

SPORTS > B1



Outsmarting orcas

Fishers use new tool to protect halibut catch

NORTHWEST > C1



Seattle's first socialist mayor

Hint: It isn't Katie Wilson

DANNY WESTNEAT > C1

NOVEMBER 16, 2025



RAIN LIKELY
High, 56. Low, 48. > A17
seattletimes.com/weather

The Seattle Times
Sunday

WINNER OF 11 PULITZER PRIZES



SEATTLETIMES.COM

\$4.00

CLIMATE LAB

Farmers face dire choices in Yakima Valley drought

As rivers and reservoirs in the Yakima basin run low on water, growers rip out apple orchards and let grapes wither on the vine.



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

An empty Lake Keechelus, one of the five reservoirs feeding the Yakima River Basin, has been a familiar scene for drivers on Snoqualmie Pass.

By CONRAD SWANSON | Seattle Times climate reporter

THE YAKIMA RIVER BASIN — Heavy fall rains might have returned to Western Washington, but east of the Cascade crest, people still look to the skies, waiting for much-needed water. They've been watching and waiting for three years now.

The lack of rain and snow forced farmers to tear out their apple orchards by the acre. Wine grapes are withering on the vine. Mileslong irrigation canals leak and crumble.

This basin is the face of Washington's drought. People here describe a convergence of dismal conditions. Poor demand for some crops, trade wars, rising costs and drought.

All swirling around a region that's home to more than 400,000 people and an agriculture industry worth some \$4.5 billion. The basin produces more than a sixth of Washington's annual agricultural value.

This might be the driest year in recent memory, fresh on the heels of severe droughts last year and the year before. Statewide, this was the third-driest April-July stretch since recordkeeping began in 1895. Mountain snowpack faltered and melted early all along the Cascades. And rainfall disappointed further east. Adams, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Spokane, Walla

See > CHOICES, A12

Former Seahawk Michael Bennett, now designer, brings chapel to Seattle

By JAS KEIMIG
Special to The Seattle Times

Nestled into the southeastern corner of the grounds of Seattle's Northwest African American Museum is a small chapel, built of light-colored wood. It's an unexpected sight outside the museum's vintage brick building: a contempo-

rary structure that's both humble in its materials and inviting to passersby.

You might be surprised to learn who the artist is: Michael Bennett, the former NFL player and Seahawks defensive lineman from 2013 to 2017, who is now a designer. Open through December, Bennett's "Night Chapel" is a travel-

ing structure stationed outside NAAM that explores how light, structure and design can coalesce in an experience rooted in community, social justice and mental health.

Although "Night Chapel" is billed as a roving art piece, Bennett designed it with Seattle in mind. He sees the city as his second home and wants to create a way to give back to the place that gave him so much. By specifically installing the chapel in the historically Black Central District, Bennett wanted to make a statement

See > BENNETT, A10

Kenny Easley, 66, Seahawks safety defined an era in '80s

OBITUARY

By BOB CONDOTTA
Seattle Times staff reporter

Kenny Easley, whose hard hitting and playmaking earned him the nickname "The Enforcer" and defined the first great era of Seahawks football in the 1980s, died Friday, the Pro Football Hall of Fame announced.

Easley was 66. The cause of death was not immediately announced.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Seahawks Legend Kenny Easley," the Seahawks said in a statement Saturday. "Kenny embodied what it meant to be a Seahawk through his leadership, intensity, and fearlessness. His intimidating nature and athletic grace made him one of the best players of all-time."

The Seahawks further honored Easley by lowering the 12 flags at

See > EASLEY, A15



Kenny Easley

Emails show Epstein's efforts to influence global politics

By SHIRSHO DASGUPTA
Miami Herald

MIAMI — From his luxurious homes in Palm Beach, Fla., Manhattan and across the globe, Jeffrey Epstein projected the image of a global power broker and kingmaker.

He closely advised former White House chief strategist and right-wing provocateur Steve Bannon on how to build a political movement in Europe; offered to provide the Kremlin insight into President Donald Trump's way of thinking; and frequently boasted about how he was close to the rich, powerful and famous, according to emails and phone messages released by the U.S. House Oversight Committee.

The tranche of more than 20,000 documents provides further insight

See > EPSTEIN, A16

© 2025 Seattle Times Co.
Our newsprint contains recycled fiber, and inks are reused.



2x the expertise



Fred Hutch
Cancer Center



UW Medicine
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FredHutch.org/Teaming-Up