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## Trump fires Noem as head of DHS; Oklahoma senator to replace her

**HOMELAND SECURITY** | Noem drew criticism over administration's immigration crackdown.

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE, REBECCA SANTANA AND SEUNG-MIN KIM**  
*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday fired Kristi Noem, his embattled homeland security secretary, after mounting criticism over her leadership of the department, including the handling of the administration's immigration crackdown and disaster response.

Trump, who said he would nominate Oklahoma Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin in her place,

**'GOOD RIDDANCE,'** Democrats say > **A6**

made the announcement on social media after Noem faced a two-day grilling on Capitol Hill this week from GOP members as well as Democrats.

Noem's departure marks a stunning turnaround for a close ally to the president who was tasked with steering his centerpiece policy of mass deportations. But she ap-

See > **NOEM, A6**



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem appears for an oversight hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the Capitol on Tuesday.*

## Israel launches strikes on Lebanon

**WIDER WAR** | As its ally Hezbollah is targeted, Iran has hit 12 nations in 6 days.

By **EUAN WARD, AURELIEN BREEDEN, ERIKA SOLOMON AND THOMAS FULLER**  
*The New York Times*

BEIRUT — An Israeli order for residents to “save your lives and evacuate your homes immediately” brought chaos to the suburbs of Beirut on Thursday and was punctuated hours later with a bombing campaign by Israeli warplanes that raised fears of a new front in the metastasizing Middle East war.

The Israeli bombings, which

**WAR POWERS** measure defeated in House > **A3**

rolled across the city like thunder, began just before midnight in a densely populated area outside the capital where Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group, holds sway. The group has received weapons and financial support from Iran for decades and has engaged in multiple wars with Israel.

The strikes in Lebanon were the latest proliferating effects of the nearly weeklong war recently launched by the United States and Israel, a conflict that the United Nations said on Thursday had affected 16 countries.

As questions swirled about See > **MIDEAST, A5**

## Seattle City Light proposes \$4 billion for Skagit River hydropower dams



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Gorge Powerhouse, part of Seattle City Light's hydroelectric system, sits in Newhalem in the foothills of the North Cascades.

By **ISABELLA BREDA**  
*Seattle Times staff reporter*

Seattle City Light, the city's electric utility, has agreed to commit about \$4 billion to continue to operate its hydropower dams on the Skagit River over the next 50 years.

The hard-fought agreement with tribes and state and federal agencies includes provisions to pass salmon over three dams, restore fish habitat and provide some compensation for Native nations harmed by the construction and ongoing operation of the hydropower project.

The full agreement, set to be made public Monday, will need approval from the Seattle City Council before it is submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which grants licenses to operate dams. The city anticipates a license may be issued around 2030.

The agreement will commit the city to

work throughout the watershed to help restore salmon, including actions advocated by Native nations for years. The work includes \$979 million for trapping and hauling salmon on both upstream and downstream around the dams, as well as \$200 million for habitat restoration. The city said it would also manage flows to be more protective of fish.

The agreement also includes provisions for flood risk management and about \$1.8 billion for ongoing operation and maintenance of dams and powerhouses.

Seattle City Light customers could see electricity rates go up about 0.5% per year from 2027 to 2032 due to the agreement, according to the utility. After that, the utility says impacts to ratepayers are difficult to predict.

Construction began on the dams more than a century ago, as a project that could meet rising energy needs and help the city grow.

The dams today provide about 20% of the city's electricity, and Seattle residents typically benefit from cheaper electricity rates than the average U.S. household. Some settlers saw dams as a means of taming the river to protect agriculture in the lower valley.

The dams' construction, however, came at a significant cost to spiritual and cultural sites and salmon.

The company town of Newhalem sits atop an Upper Skagit village, Dax\*álib. The construction of Gorge Dam stripped the river from a sacred gorge, and instead flowed it through a tunnel blasted in a mountain to feed a powerhouse. The project encompasses the Upper Skagit people's creation site and other significant areas within the tribe's ancestral home known as the “valley of the spirits.”

Negotiations on the future operations of the dams began in 2019. The current license See > **DAMS, A7**

## Ed Lincoln's colorful truck 'toed' Seattle's heart away

**OBITUARY**

By **MEGAN ULU-LANI BOYANTON**  
*Seattle Times business reporter*

Edward “Ed” Lincoln, the towing company owner who made a bubblegum-colored mark on Seattle history with his Pink Toe Truck, died last month at 84 years old.

The Pink Toe Truck — topped with five toes, including one sizable big toe, on its cab — won the hearts

of Seattleites who spotted it on the roads through the 1980s or on the roof of Lincoln Towing in the 1990s.

Since 2005, the original truck has sat in Seattle's Museum of History & Industry as a nod to one man's ingenuity and business acumen. Lincoln Towing remains open, though it also goes by Seattle Impound these days.

Lincoln is remembered as an

entrepreneur, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather and an author. In his 2010 memoir, “Life Through the Rearview Mirror: On the Road with the Creator of the Pink Toe Truck,” he reflected on a life spent shaping businesses, taking risks and always making time for laughter.

Lincoln died Feb. 23 at his home in Anacortes after a cold worsened into pneumonia.

**'My hero'**

Lincoln was born in 1941 in Juneau, Alaska, though the Seattle area became his home from the age of 3. He largely spent his adolescence in Ballard before the family of four — Lincoln, his parents and his sister, Barbara — moved to Everett.

Lincoln's dad, Ed Sr., ran Lincoln Auto Wrecking on Aurora Avenue See > **LINCOLN, A7**

## Mideast war complicates matters for Seattle area home sellers

By **ALEXIS WEISEND**  
*Seattle Times business reporter*

Mortgage rates fell below 6% for the first time in years last month, offering a glimmer of hope for the sluggish Seattle-area housing market. Then, the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran — sending rates back up again.

The flip-flop came as hopeful sellers put a seasonally high number of homes on the market, just to find buyers are mostly still reluctant to make a move.

“(Sellers’) enthusiasm is not being matched by buyers,” said Daryl Fairweather, chief economist at Redfin. “It seems Seattle is still in the buyers’ market territory.”

Last month, single-family home listings rose 19% in each of King, Snohomish and Kitsap counties and 13.5% in Pierce County compared with a year ago, according to data released Wednesday by the Northwest Multiple Listing Service.

Fairweather attributes the rise in new listings last month to the drop in mortgage rates. See > **HOME SALES, A5**

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