



IN PURSUIT OF OUR PAST
Seattle Sketcher looks back
NWSATURDAY > B1



Quiet Okung's play speaks volumes

Reluctant star finds spotlight

SPORTS > C1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2012

The Seattle Times

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Lining up pieces of a taxing puzzle

CAREFUL POLITICKING ALONG EDGE OF 'FISCAL CLIFF'

Senate needs enough GOP support to impress House

BY PAUL KANE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Turning the newfound optimism for a deal to

avoid the "fiscal cliff" into an actual deal will take 72 hours of deft political and procedural maneuvering through many of the same traps

that have so far prevented an agreement.

Democrats and Republicans still have very different notions of who should pay higher taxes and who shouldn't. And whatever party leaders come up with must go through the thicket of politics in the slow-moving Senate and the any-

thing-goes House.

"We're trying to get the Rubik's Cube all lined up," Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said Friday evening.

The first step began Friday night, when senior aides to President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-

Ky., began negotiating pieces of a fiscal puzzle that must be fit together by the time the ball drops on New Year's Eve.

Those talks are expected to continue Saturday, when both chambers of Congress will be shut down so Senate leaders can craft a deal

See > CLIFF, A2

HISTORY AFLOAT OUTSIDE MOHAI

As the **Museum of History & Industry** reopens Saturday, the history lessons aren't found only inside the former armory on Lake Union. The seven vessels moored nearby tell their own stories of our area's maritime past.



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Historic Ships Wharf at Lake Union Park complements the Museum of History & Industry, opening Saturday in the white former armory building. The boats include the black-hulled Seattle fireboat Duwamish, left, the red-hulled lightship Swiftsure, the plastic-encased (for winter) historic tug Arthur Foss and the steamship Virginia V.

BY JACK BROOM
Seattle Times staff reporter

One starred in a 1933 movie. Another could spray 380 gallons of water in a single second.

A third rescued more than 150 people after a steamer ran aground off Northern California.

And that's just a tiny glimpse of the résumés of a small fleet of boats moored at the Historic Ships Wharf at Seattle's Lake Union Park.

On Saturday, visitors to the South Lake Union neighborhood will doubtless focus on the 10 a.m. grand opening of the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) at its new 50,000-square-foot museum in the former Naval Reserve Armory, a \$90 million project years in the making.



MARINE SALON PHOTO SHOP

The 90-year-old passenger steamer Virginia V was part of the "Mosquito Fleet" that served Puget Sound before the state ferries.

MOHAI OPENING
Festivities start at 10 a.m. Saturday >Your Saturday B3

But there's plenty of history tied up outside the museum as well.

The seven vessels at the Historic Ships Wharf, paces from the museum, have collectively amassed more than 680 years of nautical experience.

You can call them historic, vintage or veteran. But don't call them relics.

Granted, they don't hold the same jobs they had in their storied youth, but each of them, thanks to its own group of supporters, is still finding or seeking a way to be of service.

See > BOATS, A4

Snow Fall

The avalanche at Tunnel Creek



Experienced skiers view Tunnel Creek, near Stevens Pass, with a mix of fear and awe. It offers 3,000 vertical feet of fresh powder, expert terrain and relative solitude.

But last February, the very thing an elite group of 16 skiers and snowboarders had sought — soft, unspoiled snow — became the enemy.

Today, the final part in The New York Times' six-part special report on the deadly avalanche. > Close-up A3



KEN CEDENO / SPECIAL TO THE TIMES
Congressman Norm Dicks will leave office Jan. 3.

Dicks in last days of 36-year career

18 TERMS IN HOUSE | The top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee served with powerhouse lawmakers Henry Jackson and Warren Magnuson and leaves a powerful legacy of his own.

BY KYUNG M. SONG
Seattle Times Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks is all set to retire after 36 years in Congress. But the Bremerton Democrat has hardly had a chance to slack off in his final days in office.

Before it was canceled at the last minute, Dicks — the top Democrat in the House Appropriations Committee — was to make a tour of Superstorm Sandy-damaged areas in New Jersey and New York last week as an emergency \$60.4 billion spending request moved

through Congress.

And with President Obama and congressional Republicans still dickering over an accord on tax increases and budget cuts to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff, Dicks expects to stay busy right up until his 18th term wraps up at noon Jan. 3.

Only then will Dicks conclude his stint as the third-longest-serving member of Congress from Washington and one of the delegation's

See > DICKS, A4

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