

NBA Preview

Second of four parts



DURANT FITTING RIGHT IN

New kid on the block
SPORTS > D1, D6-D7



T-Mobile's new phone takes aim at iPhone

Shadow debuts today
BUSINESS > C1

Red Sox sweep World Series

SPORTS > D1

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007



LIGHT RAIN possible. High 54, low 41. > LOCAL B8

The Seattle Times



50¢ King, Pierce, Snohomish, Island, Kitsap and Thurston counties | 75¢ elsewhere

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1896 | seattletimes.com

Developers dangle discounts, toys to lure home buyers



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Matt Orlando, a Shoreline Community College instructor, recently bought a new condominium at Veridian Cove in North Seattle. The developer's \$3,000 credit toward closing costs and the waiving of homeowners dues for a year helped make the purchase affordable to the former renter.

SLOWDOWN STRATEGY | With more new houses and condos in need of occupants, builders are tossing in money incentives and other perks to make a sale. Not all the enticements are as good as they seem, so buyers need to look carefully before they jump.

BY ELIZABETH RHODES
Seattle Times business reporter

Puget Sound-area new-home developers, motivated by an increasingly soft real-estate market, are resorting to something they haven't done in years. They're enticing buyers, like Matt Orlando, with big TVs, motorcycles and other inducements.

The deal sweetener that eased Orlando into his first home was a \$3,000 credit toward closing costs on a one-bedroom condominium in Veridian Cove, an extensively refurbished new conversion in North Seattle.

The first year's homeowners dues, at \$197 a month, also were waived.

"I feel like I won the lottery,"

says the Shoreline Community College instructor. "They were basically giving me \$5,000 to move into a beautiful place I could afford."

Incentives started appearing in late summer and are the best they've been in more than a decade. Indeed, until this year, builders could count on selling many new homes before they were even built.

Please see > **NEW HOMES, A12**

\$3,000 CREDIT TOWARD CLOSING COSTS



Traffic stop is murder suspect's undoing

1988 WISCONSIN STABBING

Broken truck light in Bellevue ends man's life on the lam

BY SHARON PIAN CHAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

A routine stop for a broken light Friday night ended with the capture of a man police say is wanted in Wisconsin for a murder 19 years ago.

Police say the man had been living in Washington for about 15 years, is married and had a driver's license issued under an assumed name they would not release. But they say he is actually Ezequiel Lopez-Zavala, who is charged with first-degree murder in Beloit, Wis., in the 1988 stabbing of a 22-year-old man.

"It's a little bit of 'You're kidding,'" said Capt. William Tyler of the Beloit police department. "The memories fade, but we always wanted to know if we were going to get another shot at him."

The man is being held in the King County Jail while he awaits extradition to Wisconsin. Please see > **CAPTURE, A12**

Sheiks cross al-Qaida, fall victim in Iraq

BY KIM GAMEL
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen in Baghdad snatched 10 Sunni and Shiite tribal sheiks from their cars Sunday as they were heading home to Diyala province after talks with the government on fighting al-Qaida, and at least one was later found shot to death.

The bold daylight kidnapping came as the top U.S. commander in Iraq said the threat from the terror network has been "significantly reduced" in the capital.

A suicide car bomber, meanwhile, struck a busy commercial area in the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, killing at least eight people and wounding 26, police said.

A new U.S. general assumed control of the region north of Baghdad, acknowledging that violence remains high but expressing confidence that the military has al-Qaida on the run there as well.

TURKEY reports 15 Kurdish rebels killed, but Iraq border still quiet > A10

Survivors of sorrow shelter the exploited

HUMAN TRAFFICKING | Rani and Trong Hong overcame sad beginnings to build new lives in Washington. Their foundation helps those who've suffered similar nightmares.

BY LORNET TURNBULL
Seattle Times staff reporter

As a 7-year-old girl in southern India in 1978, she was taken from her parents and sold into slavery.

At the same time, a 9-year-old boy in Southeast Asia was surviving alone in a cave, after the fishing boat on which he was fleeing Vietnam became shipwrecked.

Rani and Trong Hong would eventually be rescued from their separate childhood nightmares and brought to safety in Washington state. They would meet as adults on a blind date, fall in love and marry.

Years passed before they shared

the stories of their own sad pasts with one another — he because he chose not to remember, she because she couldn't, the trauma so great it had forced to her forget.

Now, motivated by the pain of their early years to help others, they are renovating a home exclusively for victims of human trafficking — people recruited, transported and harbored for sexual exploitation or slave labor.

It will be the first of its kind in the state and possibly only the second in the U.S.

They want the five-bedroom, split-level on three wooded acres in West- Please see > **TRAFFICKING, A13**



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Trong and Rani Hong are creating the first home in the state for international human-trafficking victims.

Newsline

A quick look at today's news. For updates: seattletimes.com

J.P. Patches: Hundreds visited with the clown in Seattle. Also known as Chris Wedes, he is battling blood cancer. > **Local B1**

Close-up: As coal's value to China's economy increases, so does alarm over its environmental and health impacts. > **A3**

Fire: Seven college students were killed, and six others were injured, in a North Carolina beach-house blaze. > **A4**

Argentina: First lady



THOMAS JAMES HURST / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Scott Cokeley, right, came from Hoquiam just to see his hero J.P. Patches, left.

Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner claimed victory in the presidential election. > **A9**

SAS: The airline said it will pull its Q400 turboprops, after a series of crash landings. > **Business C3**

A-Rod: The slugger opted out of his contract, possibly ending his Yankees career. > **Sports D8**

Opinion: Her son passed the WASL, and that's bad news, writes Kate Riley. > **B6**

Index
ASK AMY NW LIFE E8
BUSINESS C SECTION
CLOSE-UP A3
COMICS NW LIFE E4

CORRECTIONS
CROSSWORD NW LIFE E4
DEATHS, FUNERALS LOCAL B4
EDITORIALS LOCAL B6-7
HERE & NOW LOCAL B2

A2
JERRY LARGE LOCAL NEWS
LOTTERY A2
NATION REPORT A4
NORTHWEST LIFE E SECTION

LOCAL B1
B SECTION
TV A2
WEATHER LOCAL B8
WORLD REPORT A9

PUZZLES
SPORTS ON TV, RADIO
SPORTS D2
SPORTS D2
NW LIFE E8
LOCAL B8
A9

Classified ads index
F1
F1
F3
F3
F4

F1
F1
F3
F3
F4

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