

MOVIES

And the Oscar nominees are ...

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P-I SPORTS STARS OF THE YEAR

Bobby Engram, Danielle Lawrie win top awards

SPORTS C1

SEAHAWKS

Holmgren will be back for one last season

SPORTS C1



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

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YOUNG, RICH, FAMOUS, GONE

In prime of his career, Ledger joins tragic fraternity

BY TOM HAYS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heath Ledger, the talented 28-year-old actor who gravitated toward dark, brooding

roles that defied his leading-man looks, was found dead Tuesday in a Manhattan apartment, facedown at the foot of his bed with prescription sleeping pills nearby, police said. There was no obvious indica-

tion that the Australian-born actor had committed suicide, New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the SoHo apartment that is believed to be the home of the

SEE LEDGER, A9

INSIDE

FILMOGRAPHY: A list of Ledger's best work. **A9**

SEATTLEPI.COM

View a gallery of Heath Ledger images online.



GETTY IMAGES / 2006

A RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE



PHOTO BY STEVE SHELTON IMAGES

The Vashon ferry pushes toward Vashon Island after leaving the Fauntleroy dock just before the moon set over the Olympics on Tuesday. Ferry riders will face temperatures in the low 20s as the cold spell continues to chill the Northwest through the week.

What the Fed rate cut means to you

Q&A: It's a good time for borrowers, but not for savers

BY ALAN ZIBEL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve's three-quarter percentage point cut in a key interest rate Tuesday was designed to make consumer and corporate borrowing cheaper and thereby kick-start the economy, which many fear is spiraling into a recession.

Here are some basic questions and answers about the effect of the Fed's action:

Q: Will adjustable-rate mortgages become more affordable?

A: The rate cut is good news for consumers with ARMs scheduled to reset soon. ARMs, which typically adjust to market rates every six to 12 months after an introductory term, are often pegged to short-term rates such as one-year Treasury bills or the London interbank offered rate, a global benchmark set in Britain. Those short-term rates track the Fed's key interest rate and already have fallen over the past month in anticipation of a rate cut.

Q: Is this a good time to refinance a home loan?

A: Experts say it is, especially for borrowers with ARMs and good credit who don't plan to move any time soon. Even before Tuesday's Fed action, rates on 30-year mortgages had fallen to the lowest level since the summer of 2005. There's no guarantee, though, that mortgage rates will keep falling as the Fed cuts short-term rates.

That's because long-term interest rates, which influence 30-year mortgages, don't always move in sync with the Fed's actions. They could even rise if the Fed is successful in stabilizing the economy and inflation fears accelerate.

"Take your opportunity while it's here, because it may

SEE Q&A, A9



SCOTT OLSON / GETTY IMAGES

A trader ponders his next move in the pit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Tuesday.

More cuts may be on way — but recession still looms

P-I NEWS SERVICES

The Federal Reserve, confronted by deepening panic in global financial markets about a possible recession in the United States, struck back Tuesday with the biggest one-day reduction of interest rates on record and at least temporarily stopped a vertigo-inducing plunge in stock prices.

And there may be more action. In a statement accompanying the Fed's decision, announced about an hour before the stock market opened for trading, officials hinted that they may reduce rates again at their scheduled meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Economists, though, said a recession is still a possibility.

Interest rate reductions are

SEE FED, A9

INSIDE

HOUSING IN '07: A good year started to falter in August. **B1**

Colorado's evangelicals likely to stick with a GOP candidate

ELECTORAL BONANZA

DAVID HORSEY



the rigging overhead scanned the crowd. Ten giant video screens displayed close-ups of the singers' faces.

Young people danced and hopped up and down in front of the stage and in the aisles. With arms waving, they sang along, repeating the final line of one song over and over:

"I am counting on God, I'm counting on God."

This was not Springsteen. This was church.

Not your grandmother's church, obviously. Not a fading, old-line Protestant congregation with a sea of gray hair in the pews. Not a Catholic Mass with a centuries-old liturgy.

This was the New Life

SEE HORSEY, A9



CAMPAIGN NEWS, ANALYSIS INSIDE

DEMOCRATS ATTACK: As the Democratic front-runners slug it out, Bill Clinton says, "I kind of like to see Barack and Hillary fight." **A3**

THOMPSON OUT: Conservative Fred Thompson ends his campaign for the GOP nomination, and Mike Huckabee tries to pick up his supporters. **A3**

JOEL CONNELLY: Former President Clinton works the dark side of his wife's campaign by slinging mud at Barack Obama. **B1**

HORSEY HITS THE ROAD

David Horsey, the Seattle P-I's Pulitzer-winning editorial cartoonist, is on a three-week swing around the Western primary states. "Electoral Bonanza" started in Sunday's Focus section and will appear regularly in the P-I between now and Super Tuesday. Horsey will send words and drawings capturing the political scene across Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

You also can follow Horsey's progress on his Web site, davidhorsey.com, featuring his new blog, "Drawing Power."

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Bigger, better Sound Transit

The chairwoman of the state Senate Transportation Committee thinks a larger regional transportation agency will help solve Puget Sound area's congestion problems. **B1**

TOP STORIES



Funeral held for slain teen

Even as the pastor took the funeral of a 14-year-old boy as an occasion to urge forgiveness after an apparent gang killing, some young people in the audience were thinking about revenge. **B1**

Divorce rights next for gays

Lawmakers are looking to expand the state's domestic-partnership law by granting same-sex couples more than 170 of the benefits given to married couples, including divorce rights. **B1**



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