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TRAVEL

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GETAWAYS

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MELANIE MCFARLAND D1



MUSIC

Another 'Idol' gone - and it's a surprise

LIFE AND ARTS D1

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

TOP STORIES

Starbucks and Sir Paul



Paul McCartney says he'll make a record for Starbucks' new label. His live announcement was a high point at the Starbucks investors meeting Wednesday for Chairman Howard Schultz, who spent a lot of time defending the company. E1

\$300 million M's-Fox deal

The Mariners and cable TV partner Fox Sports Northwest are nearing agreement on a 10-year contract extension that would pay the M's more than \$300 million, sources tell Seattle P-I reporters. C1

Analyzing viaduct vote

A Seattle P-I analysis of results from last week's election shows voters in West Seattle and Magnolia strongly favored a new elevated viaduct, but no neighborhood supported the more costly tunnel option. B1

ALSO IN THE NEWS

NATION

Gore in Congress: Al Gore pleads with lawmakers to fight global warming. A2

SEATTLE

License to cross: The Legislature approves an enhanced driver's license aimed at easing border crossings into British Columbia. B1

No contest? The state Republican Party's executive board votes to ignore Washington's presidential primary. B1

Sobering stat: About 20 percent of high school students in a health survey say they've been drunk at school in the past year. B1

BUSINESS

Aboard the A380: The Airbus giant impresses in a short flight out of New York. E1

Allen into banking: Paul Allen says he's teaming up with a private-equity investment firm to form a banking joint venture. E1

Keen interest: The possibility of a cut in interest rates ignites a rally on Wall Street. E1

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Scattered morning showers, turning to light rain. High 52. B8

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King County growth booms

Strong job market is pumping up population

BY AUBREY COHEN
P-I reporter

April Middeljans moved from Illinois to Seattle last August because that's where she got a job.

"The job market for English professors is pretty tight," said Middeljans, who is now an assistant professor at Seattle Pacific University.

She and her husband, John, are renting a house on Queen Anne while they search for one they like and can afford in the city. They haven't completely eliminated Shoreline but are not will-

ing to go as far as Snohomish County, where homes are more affordable.

"Our time is very valuable to us, so we want to reduce the commute as much as possible," she said. "And we'd like to stay with just one car for as long as we could."

Strong job growth in King County and longer commutes to outlying communities are two reasons experts give for new U.S. Census estimates saying the county is growing faster than it has in years. The numbers, released today,

SEE PEOPLE, A7

THE COUNTIES BY THE NUMBERS

Here are some highlights from new population estimates the U.S. Census Bureau released today for counties with at least 10,000 people:

► Maricopa County, Ariz., gained 696,000 residents between 2000 and 2006, more than any other county.

► Florida's Flagler County, along the Atlantic Coast between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, was the fastest

growing since 2000, with a 66.7 percent increase, to 83,000.

► The South and West claimed 19 of the 20 counties that gained the most people and 17 of the fastest growing.

► Louisiana's Orleans Parish, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, has lost 261,000 people since 2000 - more than any other county.

► Franklin County was the only

Washington county to crack the list of 100 fastest-growing U.S. counties. It grew by 34.9 percent, good for 31st place.

► King County has been the nation's 14th-largest county since 2003, when it slipped from 13th. It was 12th in 2000. Other Washington counties in the top 100 are Pierce (70th) and Snohomish (87th).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A dose of naturopathy gives man a second chance at life

A deadly cancer, a winning fight



GILBERT W. ARIAS / P-I

Aaron Barrett, who two years ago was told he was dying of pancreatic cancer, is now virtually cancer free after receiving a new treatment from a Seattle oncologist.

BY CHERIE BLACK
P-I reporter

The paramedics wheeled him in on a stretcher, weak, pale and barely alive. After five months, the most evil of all cancers was about to declare victory. His pancreas was riddled with the disease, and tumors had spread to the liver and other surrounding organs.

His doctor predicted he would be dead within weeks.

Aaron Barrett, just 35 years old, sought one last treatment. The paramedics deposited Barrett's thin body into a bed at the Seattle Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center. There, his new treatment began.

It was largely untested, and controversial.

The standard treatment for pancreatic cancer, which hadn't worked for Barrett, involves chemotherapy, blasting the system with the highest dose of chemicals possible.

The new treatment also was chemo-

SEE CANCER, A8

ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER

About 37,170 people in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2007 and about 33,370 will die of the disease.

The pancreas is a gland found behind the stomach that helps with digestion and maintaining blood sugar levels by producing insulin.

Most people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer are older than 50. People ages 65 to 79 have the highest incidence of the disease.

There are rarely any early symptoms

of pancreatic cancer, so usually by the time it is diagnosed, it has spread and is in advanced stages, making it the deadliest of all cancers. Patients are usually given three to six months to live after diagnosis.

Symptoms include jaundice, pain in the belly, weight loss, digestive problems, blood clots, diabetes and swollen gallbladder.

Sources: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, American Cancer Society

HOW TO LEARN MORE: A8

House panel OKs subpoenas for top Bush aides

White House again insists officials will not testify on firings

INSIDE

President Bush may be a lame duck with low poll numbers, but he's sending a clear and defiant message to Congress. A8

BY CARL HULSE
The New York Times

WASHINGTON - The inquiry into the firing of eight federal prosecutors threatened Wednesday to widen into a constitutional confrontation as a House panel authorized subpoenas requiring Karl Rove and other senior Bush administration officials to testify under oath.

The White House dug in against the

demand, although Democrats in Congress held out hope for a compromise. "Who knows where it will lead?" said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

While members of a House Judiciary subcommittee approved the subpoenas for Rove and four others, they did not issue them, saying they still hoped to avoid a showdown over separation of powers.

SEE FIRINGS, A8



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, left, and White House aide Karl Rove are the focus of inquiries over firing of prosecutors.