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Hawking tops science fest field of stars

YOUR SATURDAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

The Seattle Times



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NO-NO-NO-NO-NO!

It takes 6 pitchers, but M's no-hit Dodgers



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The M's made history Friday night at Safeco Field — and it was a team effort. Above, catcher Jesus Montero leaps into the arms of Tom Wilhelmsen, one of five relievers who combined with starter Kevin Millwood to pitch the third no-hitter in Mariners history, beating the Dodgers 1-0. It was only the 10th combined no-hitter ever in the majors. > Sports C1

Northgate garage draws fight over future of a neighborhood

PARK-AND-RIDE INTENDED TO PROMOTE USE OF TRANSIT

Bike club wants footbridge, says quit catering to cars

 $Seattle\ Times\ transportation\ reporter$

Northgate Mall, heralded as one of the world's first drive-up shopping centers in 1950, has suddenly become ground zero in Seattle's socalled war on cars.

Sound Transit is taking criticism for proposing a 600- to 900-stall parking garage, costing \$30 million or more, as part of its new Northgate light-rail station. The transit agency says it needs the multistory garage because construction equipment

and supplies will take over the existing surface park-and-ride lots for up to six years.

After the station opens in 2021, transit managers say, having a permanent garage will free up some of those surface lots for redevelopment. The site could accommodate high-rise apartment or condo buildings and a plaza for bus drop-offs. Residents would likely be frequent train riders, officials hope.



But that vision doesn't satisfy some neighbors and environmentalists, who question the value of

See > NORTHGATE, A6

Threat charges dropped against colonel

PROSECUTORS THINK WOMAN WAS LYING

He's 'been through wringer,' lawyer says

The Associated Press and The News Tribune

The Pierce County prosecutor dropped all charges Friday against an Army lieutenant colonel who had been accused of threatening to kill

his superior officer, his estranged wife and another woman.

Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said his office dropped the three felony

harassment



Lt. Col. Underwood

charges filed in March against Lt. Col. Robert E. Underwood because of evidence suggesting the woman who reported the threats to authorities might have made it all up.

Underwood has maintained his innocence since his arrest in March, arguing the woman, Serena Kiptoo, made up stories about him when he rejected her romantic ad-

Kiptoo had claimed she and Underwood were in a relationship, something Underwood denied.

Prosecutors filed paperwork Friday afternoon saying they'd lost faith in the credibility of Kiptoo, who was the main witness against Underwood.

Deputy Prosecutor Neil Horibe asked Superior Court Judge Beverly Grant to sign an order dismissing the three felony harassment charges against Underwood on Friday afternoon. Grant agreed but left the door open so prosecutors could refile the charges if more evidence emerges.

Underwood's attorney, Philip Thornton, of Tacoma, said his client has "been through the wringer" since

See > JBLM, A4

800 advisers bring reality to big-screen sci-fi fantasies Scientists team up with Hollywood

BY BRIAN VASTAG The Washington Post

There's a moment early in the new sci-fi film "Prometheus" where a scientist doffs his helmet on a distant alien moon.

But wait: The atmosphere is toxic, we were told. So what's he doing? Well, the scientist has found a bubble of breathable air — which is handy, because who wants to watch pretty Hollywood faces stuffed into helmets for an entire film?

It turns out such a scenario is plausible. There could be a moon circling a faraway planet that has in places — safe air.

The film's director, Ridley Scott, knew this. While developing the script, he turned to one of Hollywood's hottest science advisers, NASA astrobiologist Kevin Hand, who also consulted on "Avatar" and "Thor."

Hand makes his living thinking about what alien life might look like and how we can find it. During brainstorming sessions with Scott and his team, the



20TH CENTURY FOX

This film image shows Logan Marshall-Green, from left, Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender in a scene from "Prometheus."

filmmakers said they wanted the characters to ditch their helmets. Hand, who was detailing to Scott how alien worlds might look, feel and smell, explained how pockets of oxygen could be present.

See > HOLLYWOOD, A4

'Doing fine': Obama's bully pulpit backfires

THE ECONOMY | Six badly chosen words at a news conference cap off a rough week for the president.

BY JACKIE CALMES The New York Times

WASHINGTON - Presidents have long been said to hold the power of the bully pulpit. But when President Obama sought to wield it Friday, by calling a news conference to showcase his concern for the economy and Republicans' refusal to work with him, he was the one who ended up getting pum-

By late afternoon, Obama was forced to clarify one line from his



President Obama

morning session - "the private sector is doing fine" — after congressional Republicans and his presidential rival, Mitt Romney, had seized on the comment to criticize Obama as out of touch and de-

tached from the millions of Americans who cannot find jobs or have given up looking.

"Listen, it is absolutely clear that See > OBAMA, A4

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