

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Hot tunes, cool rides and more

YOUR THURSDAY > B7

Cort's now in session

UW's Dennison is ready to rule

SPORTS > C1



OUT
Wilson traded to Atlanta

IN
GM Zdurienck gets extension

SPORTS > C1

CARP REELS IN 2-1 WIN

Felix tosses 5-hit gem; Carp's two-run double in 8th caps comeback



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

The Seattle Times

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EARLY FOG, THEN SUN
High, 72. Low, 55. > B12
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HIGH-STAKES BATTLE OVER T-MOBILE, AT&T MERGER

JUSTICE DEPT. SUES IN ANTITRUST MOVE BY OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Companies vow big fight

BY EDWARD WYATT
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Wednesday sued to block the proposed \$39 billion merger between cellphone giants AT&T and Bellevue-based T-Mobile USA, arguing that keeping them separate would preserve competition in the wireless industry and help save jobs of U.S. workers.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, argued that the deal, which would unite the nation's second- and fourth-largest wireless phone carriers, would result in higher prices and fewer innovative products.

The companies disputed those assertions, and labor unions that support the deal said the merger would add jobs, not cost them.

See > **AT&T, A10**

About the companies > **A10**

Q&A | Should I renew with T-Mobile? | What if the deal crumbles?

THE EFFECT ON WORKERS, CUSTOMERS

Brier Dudley
Seattle Times technology columnist

The surprise decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to fight AT&T's takeover of T-Mobile USA raises all sorts of questions for wireless customers, employees and the Seattle area.



Hanging in the balance are more than 5,000 T-Mobile workers in the region, plus thousands of contract employees and vendors whose jobs are tied to T-Mobile's headquarters in Bellevue.

Here are some opinionated answers to some of those questions.

Q: I'm a T-Mobile customer. What's going to happen to me?

A: Things should stay the same for a while — perhaps a year or more. Under the original merger plan, T-Mobile would continue operat-

See > **DUDLEY, A10**

Costco's colorful CEO, co-founder to retire

PRESIDENT, COO CRAIG JELINEK TO TAKE OVER JAN. 1

Sinegal will work one more year to ease transition

BY MELISSA ALLISON
Seattle Times business reporter

Even when Costco Wholesale co-founder and Chief Executive Officer

Jim Sinegal talks about leaving the company he built into the country's third-largest retailer, he excludes his quirky mix of humble,

frank and feisty.

"It'll be an upgrade," Sinegal joked about being replaced as CEO on Jan. 1 by President and Chief Operating Officer Craig Jelinek. "He is well-liked and smart and energetic and all the things that I used to be."

One of the most colorful person-

alities in retailing, Sinegal is known for his integrity, his unwillingness to squeeze customers or employees to please Wall Street, and his abiding love of \$1.50 hot dogs.

He will turn 76 on Jan. 1 and plans to spend one more year working full time for Costco, helping

See > **SINEGAL, A12**



Jim Sinegal, Costco CEO

Trouble in seabird paradise



PHOTOS BY STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Thousands of these double-crested cormorants have settled on East Sand Island in the Columbia River, helping to turn what was supposed to be a peaceful home to a large, relocated colony of Caspian terns into a salmon-gobbling war zone of sorts in the battle to protect threatened fish.

A government effort to save Columbia River salmon becomes an unexpected bird battle, forcing scientists to consider a flock of new questions and options after nature shows its unpredictable side.



Biologist Adam Peck-Richardson peeks out of a bird blind to watch the cormorants on East Sand Island. "It's going to get pretty loud," he said just before ducking into it.

BY CRAIG WELCH
Seattle Times environment reporter

EAST SAND ISLAND, Columbia River — It's been a dozen years since the federal government moved thousands of black-capped squawking seabirds here to reduce their diet of endangered fish.

Things haven't exactly gone as planned.

The hope in relocating the world's largest colony of Caspian terns to this sandy mound near the river's mouth was that they'd eat more sardines and herring — and fewer young salmon and steelhead. And they have.

But the move came at a price. This year the birds' summer retreat was transformed into a place of violence. A strange chain reaction in-

volving divebombing eagles and marauding gulls kept this colony from producing a single chick.

Yet even with this bizarre turn the actual number of threatened fish slurped by birds is higher now than it's ever been. That's because this same desolate scratch of ground in recent years has also become home to the West Coast's largest gathering of double-crested cormorants.

Now this small city of gangly, avian beasts swallows far more salmon than terns ever did.

"It's alarming. They're eating our lunch, basically," said Gary Fredricks, a National Marine Fisheries Service biologist. "As we try to save more fish, they're eating more and

See > **BIRDS, A6**

Tour to bring president to Seattle on Sept. 25



President Obama

Seattle Times staff

President Obama will return to the Seattle area Sept. 25 as part of a West Coast tour.

The president plans to be in Seattle and the San Francisco Bay Area that day and will continue his trip with visits to San Diego, Los Angeles and the Denver area before returning to Washington, D.C., according to a White House official who requested anonymity

because the trip has not been officially announced.

No details were given. But POLITICO, the national politics site, reported Obama's West Coast trip as a fundraising tour.

Obama last visited the Seattle area in October, when he convened a "backyard chat" at a North Seattle family's home, after a campaign rally for U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

President and speaker face off over speech; Obama blinks first

McClatchy Newspapers and The New York Times

WASHINGTON — In a raw display of political gamesmanship, President Obama invited himself to address a joint session of Congress about jobs next Wednesday, right as Republicans stage a debate among the candi-

HOW BIG and bold will Obama go with jobs proposals? > Close-up A3

dates who are vying to replace him.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, rejected the request. He suggested the president would be wel-

come the next night instead, just as the NFL starts its first game of the season.

After the brouhaha escalated into a proxy war underscoring the partisan sniping that grips the capital, the White House announced that Obama had agreed to ad-

See > **CONGRESS, A3**

Football blog, chat today

Join reporters Bud Withers and Bob Condotta at noon today for a live chat previewing the Huskies, Cougars and Pac-12 football seasons. Also, Withers' new Pac-12 Confidential blog launches today with news and commentary: seattletimes.com/sports



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