

DOTHAN EAGLE

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50 cents

192 killed by bombs in Spain

Over 1,400 hurt in rush-hour attacks on commuter trains

By MARK ROMAN
Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said. The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

Rescue workers cover up bodies alongside a bomb-damaged passenger train, following a number of explosions in Madrid, Spain just three days before Spain's general elections, killing more than 192 rush-hour commuters and wounding more than 1,400 in Spain's worst terrorist attack ever.

See **ATTACK**, Page 7A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JAY HARE/EAGLE

Members of the Dothan Police Department and the Dothan Hazmat unit confer with each other outside of the GE Motors Plant after the facility received a shipment containing a suspicious substance.

Powder scare closes GE

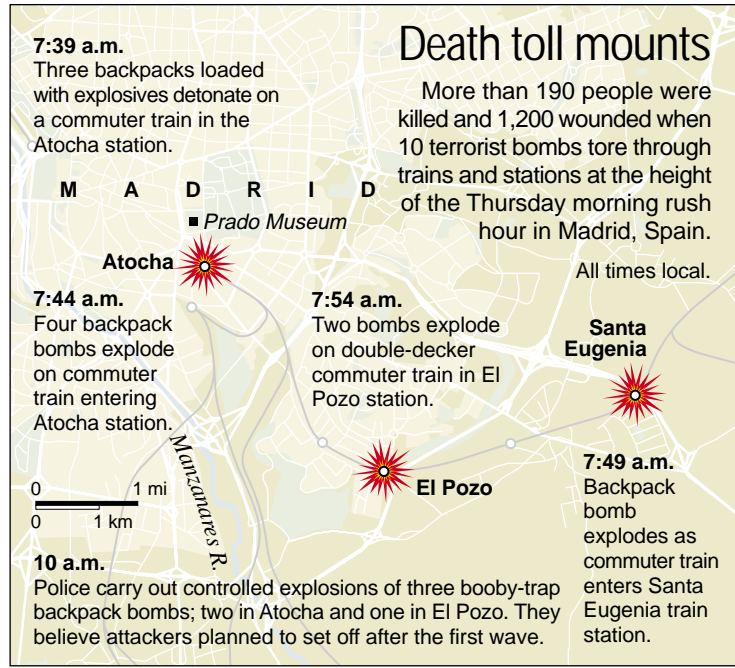
CORRINA SISK-CASSON
Eagle Staff Writer

A Dothan manufacturing plant was shut down Thursday after employees discovered a suspicious white powder substance in a shipment.

The Dothan police and fire departments were called out to GE Motors, 1371 Hodgesville Road, around 10:55 a.m. According to authorities the building had already been evacuated when they arrived.

Although they didn't show any symptoms of being infected, nine people had to change out of their clothes before being decontaminated and sent to Southeast Alabama Medical Center for further evaluation. According to hospital spokesman Steve Pearce, the patients were decontaminated again when they arrived. The patients were in stable condition and no one was hurt, however they were kept for a few hours as a precaution.

See **POWDER**, Page 8A



SOURCES: Interior Ministry; ESRI

AP

Bush debuts ads targeting Kerry

By NICK ANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Bush unleashed his first paid television attack Thursday against his presumed Democratic foe, John F. Kerry, with an advertisement that calls the Massachusetts senator "wrong on taxes, wrong on defense" and features footage suggestive of lurking terrorists.

The Bush ad, which includes pictures of the president and a legally required statement in his own voice

vouching for its content, asserts that Kerry would seek to raise taxes by at least \$900 billion.

It also accuses Kerry of advocating a policy that requires the United States to seek permission from the United Nations before taking action to defend itself — an allusion to debate over the war in Iraq. And it claims that Kerry, if elected, would take steps to weaken anti-terrorism laws.

Images in the ad include a person wearing a gas mask, a grainy picture of an airplane landing, a man running

— filmed from overhead, like a fugitive — and another man turning his eyes slowly to face the camera as a narrator talks about Kerry's agenda on terrorism.

The ad was to be broadcast in 18 closely contested states, such as Florida, Wisconsin and Ohio, Bush-Cheney campaign officials said. A longer version of the script was used for a radio advertisement that the Bush-Cheney campaign released simultaneously.

See **BUSH**, Page 7A

Man who lost tongue to remain jailed on rape, assault charges

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOBILE — A man who lost his tongue during a confrontation with a 78-year-old woman will remain in jail on rape, assault and burglary charges.

A judge refused to reduce a \$103,000 bond on Wednesday for Robert Bell, 50, after a prosecutor said Bell raped and beat the woman in her Prichard home on Jan 31. He surrendered two days later and has been in Mobile County Metro Jail since then.

Defense attorney Habib Yazdi, who was seeking a bond reduction for Bell, told District Judge Charles McKnight that the woman lured his client into her home ostensibly for consensual sex. He said the woman was

actually seeking revenge because Bell had been dating her niece, who is in her 40s.

Yazdi said that while Bell and the woman were having sex she implored him to stop seeing her niece. Bell told her he would continue to date both women, Yazdi said.

The woman then asked Bell, Yazdi said, "to give her some sugar."

When Bell kissed her, she clamped onto his tongue with her teeth and tore about an inch of it off, Yazdi said. "She gets revenge and she literally bites his tongue off," Yazdi said.

See **TONGUE**, Page 7A

Doing the wave



JAY HARE/EAGLE

A group of fourth-graders from Montana Street Elementary School do the wave as they cheer on their adopted team, the Belmont Lady Bruins, at Atlantic Sun Womens Basketball Championship Monday afternoon.

FOR MORE COVERAGE OF THE A-SUN WOMENS' TOURNEY SEE SPORTS 1-D

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FRIDAY'S WEATHER
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, SEE PAGE 2A

TODAY
High 72°
Plenty of sunshine;
nice this afternoon.

TONIGHT
Low 42°
Clear to partly cloudy.

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