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IT'S TIME TO BE IRISH

Your guide to St. Pat's Day in the O'Pueblo
Caliente

SHAKUR SHOCKER LIFTS WILDCATS

Sports



UA TUITION RISING BY \$494 A YEAR

Tucson/Region

Calif. high court halts gay nuptials

Mass. legislators are closer to ban

By David Kravets
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages in the only state where they have been ruled legal.

Teary-eyed couples were quickly turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where 4,161 gay couples have tied the knot in the last month.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be denied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions.

The amendment won approval during two preliminary votes, but its final passage is far from certain. Gay marriage sup-

SEE GAY / A15

SPAIN BLASTS MAY HAVE AL-QAIDA LINK

UA students had planned to be on one of trains bombed **A14**



Reuters

Spanish forensics experts and emergency personnel work at one of the bombed-out trains near Madrid's bustling Atocha station.

Save the Sabino lions, Napolitano implores

By Tony Davis and Eric Swedlund
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Gov. Janet Napolitano sent strong signals Thursday that she doesn't want the state Game and Fish Department to shoot mountain lions believed to be prowling the Sabino Canyon area.

But the governor may not be able to do much to reverse a state and federal decision to shoot the lions. That's because she has no authority over Game and Fish, an independent agency, and a Game and Fish official said late Thursday that the department has no plans to reverse its course.

But "in an extreme circumstance there would probably be a special arrangement" to try to stop the hunt, the governor's press secretary said.

Also Thursday afternoon, about 200 people assembled in front of the Federal Building Downtown to decry the decision to kill the mountain lions.

The governor sent Game and Fish a letter Thursday evening expressing "deep concern" over the prospect of lion-killing. The governor prefers that the department hold off on shooting

SEE LIONS / A15

► Conditions hard for hunt | A15
► What makes lions tick? | A15

Obscure group takes responsibility, says strike on U.S. is nearly ready

WIRE REPORTS

A shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for a series of explosions Thursday that blew apart four commuter trains in Madrid, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400.

Spain at first blamed Basque separatists, but an Arabic newspaper said it had received a five-page e-mail, signed by the Brigade of Abu Hafis al-Masri, claiming responsibility. The claim also said that a major attack against America was "90 percent ready."

Hours after the attack, Spanish officials announced the dis-

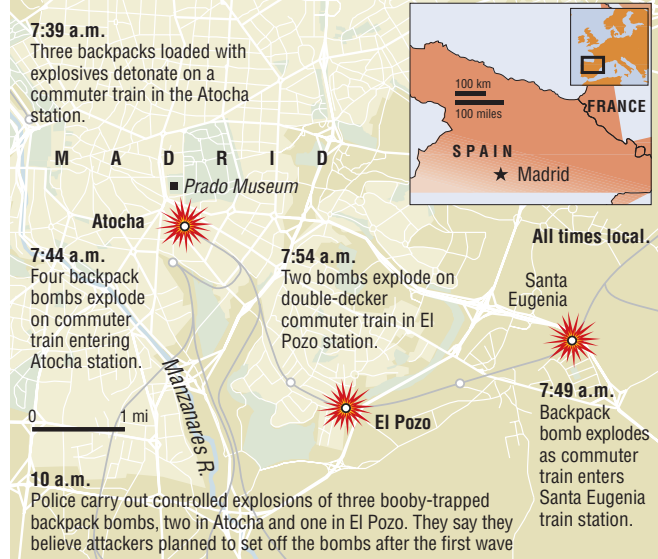
covery of new evidence that they said left open the possibility that Islamic fundamentalists were involved.

The e-mail claim was received at Al-Quds al-Arabi's London offices. It said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain," and carried out what it called Operation Death Trains.

"This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader, and America's ally in its war against Islam," the claim said.

The statement warned the

Wave of bombings rocks Madrid



Mamta Popat/Staff

About 200 people gathered at the Federal Building to protest the decision to kill the mountain lions in Sabino Canyon.

SEE SPAIN / A14

IN TODAY'S STAR

Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST

Partly cloudy.
High 80 / Low 53

Thursday: High 80 / Low 61

For complete weather information, see the back page of Sports.

www.azstarnet.com/weather



ARIZONA & THE WEST	A4
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BUSINESS	D1-6
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HOROSCOPE	E7
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A PULITZER NEWSPAPER
Vol. 163, No. 72

Partying, cops await in Rocky Point

By Michael Marizco
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

More than 75,000 spring breakers from Arizona and California are expected to descend on Puerto Peñasco — Rocky Point — beginning today, and local police are getting ready for the crowds.

Nearly 300 American students were arrested during last year's spring break and Puerto Peñasco municipal police will be working hard to keep order, said Gildardo Parra Elias, the depart-

ment's chief.

While Puerto Peñasco, about four hours from Tucson, welcomes college vacationers, Parra Elias was a bit unnerved to learn of a convergence of spring breaks that could dramatically swell the number of revelers vis-

iting the beach town.

All three Arizona universities, some California schools like San Diego State University, and Colorado colleges have spring break at the same time this year.

The U.S. Consulate estimates about 20,000 people went to Rocky Point last year, about a quarter of the partyers expected this year.

Parra Elias has asked for Sonoran state police reinforcements

SEE MEXICO / A15

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