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ST. PADDY'S PUBS

OUR GUIDE
TO GO
COASTAL

SHOW
7-9

Justices halt gay nuptials

MORE ON DECISION
O.C.: Court's order thwarts Santa Ana couple's plans. News 4
MASSACHUSETTS: Gay-marriage ban advances. News 13

State high court to hear arguments in May or June. San Francisco sues.

BY DAVID KRAVETS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO • The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday and said it

would hear arguments in May or June on whether Mayor Gavin Newsom had the authority to allow such marriages.

Same-sex couples were turned away at City Hall, where 4,161 gay couples have been wed since Feb. 12.

One of the first couples to be denied a license were Art Adams and Devin Baker from Mountain View.

"We were filling out the application, and they told us to

stop," said Adams, who has been with Baker for more than three years. "I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

Joshua Carden, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, said the ruling restored order to chaos. The alliance joined another group and state Attorney General Bill Lockyer in asking the seven

Update

On Thursday: The state Supreme Court said San Francisco must stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Status of same-sex marriages: In legal limbo.

Next: Supreme Court to hold hearing in May or June on whether mayor has authority to grant licenses. City to challenge state constitution on the issue.

SEE WEDDINGS • PAGE 4

TODAY'S NEWS

NATION & WORLD

Parliament strips powers from South Korean president

● **Impeachment** • South Korea's Parliament voted to remove President Roh Moo-hyun from office on charges of illegal electioneering and incompetence in an unprecedented move. News 13

● **Crime** • A House majority voted to increase to \$500,000 the penalty for obscenity, indecency and profanity on radio and television. News 13

THIS SECTION

Senate OKs budget proposal

○ **Government** • The plan has less spending and smaller tax cuts than the president sought. News 9

○ **Military** • Four Marines based at Miramar were killed when their small jet crashed. News 12

LOCAL

GOP chief expected to retire

● **Politics** • Orange County Republican Party boss Tom Fuentes is expected to announce his retirement Monday. Local 1

● **Election** • Two lawmakers call for the county's electronic voting machines to be decertified, but the secretary of state is still studying them. Local 1

SPORTS

USC, UCLA lose to end season

● **College basketball** • USC came close, but the Trojans couldn't win at the end as Arizona hit a last-second, three-point shot to win, 79-76. Washington rallied in the second half to beat UCLA, 91-83, in the first round of the Pac-10 Tournament at Staples Center on Thursday. Sports 1

BUSINESS

O.C. mortgage rates dip

● **Mortgages** • The average rate in Orange County has fallen to 5.069 percent for a 30-year loan, the lowest level in eight months. Business 1

SHOW

Depp mines the depths

● **Movies** • Johnny Depp plays a writer with mounting problems in the psychological thriller "Secret Window." Show 10

COMICS, ETC.

Four-page pullout section

● **Columns** • People, Abby and Boyd. Comics, etc. 1
● **Plus** • TV listings, crossword puzzles and, of course, the comics. Comics, etc. 2-4

MADRID IN SHOCK

● 192 are killed; 1,400-plus injured ● Spain focuses on Basque separatists ● Al-Qaida link is being explored



PABLO TORRES GUERRERO, REUTERS

CHAOS: Victims sit outside the Atocha station in Madrid, Spain, as they are tended to after one of 10 deadly blasts Thursday.

10 bombs ravage four trains; possible clues found near station.

By TIM GOLDEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The flood of conflicting evidence and clues that emerged from the carnage of the bombings in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday pointed in two very different directions.

Just hours after the bombings, which killed at least 192 people, Spanish authorities blamed the attacks on the Basque separatist group ETA. Hours later, they announced new evidence that they said left open another possibility.

"Could it have been Islamic fundamentalists?" one senior anti-terrorism official asked

Thursday night. "It could have been. Spain is clearly a target of al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden has said so himself."

The scale of the violence, the indiscriminate nature of the killing and the near-simultaneity of the 10 bombings were all reminiscent of al-Qaida. The interior minister also said police had found detonators and an audio tape of Quran verses in a stolen van near the station where three of the four bombed trains originated.

Yet one official said the explosive titidine used in the attacks had often been used by the separatist group Euskadi Ta Azkatasuna, which means "Basque Homeland and Freedom."

IN DEPTH NEWS 3 >>

REACTION: Violent scale of bombings on four commuter trains leave some Spaniards frightened, others vengeful.

MORE ON BUSINESS 1

INVESTING: News of the bombings in Spain and possible terrorist ties took their toll; the Dow lost 168 points.

Below is a timeline of the events as they occurred aboard Madrid's commuter trains.

Atocha

7:39 a.m.

Blasts begin when three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in Madrid's Atocha station.

7:44 a.m.

Four backpack bombs explode on a commuter train entering Atocha station.



Asamblea de Madrid

Station not affected

El Pozo

7:54 a.m.

Two bombs explode on double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station, six miles from Atocha.

Vallecas

Station not affected

Santa Eugenia

7:49 a.m.

Nine miles from Atocha, a backpack bomb blows up on a commuter train entering Santa Eugenia station.

State officials seek \$1 billion by selling surplus property

By KIMBERLY KINDY
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SACRAMENTO • State officials will try to raise a quick \$1 billion by remedying a severe problem they bluntly acknowledged Thursday: They don't know how much land the state owns because they fail to properly track its vast holdings.

To deal with the shambles, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and two state senators have crafted a variety of initiatives to get records in order and sell at least some surplus land.

A windfall of \$1 billion – the value placed on it – would ease a \$17 billion budget deficit.

"If you don't know how much land you own, and if you don't

MORE ON NEWS 12

HISTORY: Agencies got permission to buy property with no oversight.

know how many cars you own – and we don't – how can you come up with a plan to properly manage your assets and maintain them?" Consumer Services Secretary Fred Aguiar asked.

Properties in question include the Cow Palace arena in Daly City, a San Rafael mini-mall (with massage parlor) and part of an Oakland golf course.

Republican Sens. Jim Battin and Jeff Denham said their legislation includes creating a database to track all state properties and giving agencies an incentive to sell them – a 15 percent cut.

COMING SUNDAY

Horsin' around

Register writer Amy Wilson and her daughter get bruised and amused while horsing around in Louisville and Lexington, Ky. In Travel



Index

- Comics • Comics, etc. 2-3
- Crossword • Comics, etc. 3
- Deaths • Local 7
- Dear Abby • Comics, etc. 1
- Lottery • Local 1
- Movies • Show 10-15
- Stocks • Business 7-9
- Weather • Local 10

Weather

Today ☀ 65° 79°
Tonight ☁ 55° 45°
COAST INLAND

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