

PAC-10 SPLIT: Stanford advances, Cal goes home SPORTS, D1

**SPORTS
FINAL**

San Francisco Chronicle

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THE BATTLE OVER SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Court halts gay vows

State justices take S.F. case on narrow constitutional issue, promise quick decision

Arrest in East Bay freeway shootings

Stockton man owns semiautomatics, faces drug lab charge

By Demian Bulwa, Matthew B. Stannard and Henry K. Lee

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

A Stockton gun-fancier facing charges of making drugs in his family garage was jailed Thursday in connection with a burst of East Bay freeway shootings last month that shattered car windows and left motorists jittery.

Christopher Charles Gafford, 27, described by his family as a doting father, was arrested at his home more than two weeks after the shootings on a 10-mile stretch of Interstate 580 in which eight cars were struck with bullets in little more than an hour.

Gafford, a rookie ironworker who owns a black 2002 Mazda pickup truck that matches the description of the vehicle police said was involved in the gunfire, was held without bail at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin on eight counts of attempted murder pending his arraignment Monday in Alameda County Superior Court.

While investigators revealed little about Gafford and declined to discuss a possible motive, court records and interviews indicate that he has been cited twice for speeding, is familiar with weapons and has a pending case in San Joaquin County for allegedly running a methamphetamine lab.

Authorities acknowledged that motorists had been on edge as weeks went by without an arrest in the freeway shootings, in which no one was injured. Two specific tips in the past 48 hours helped lead investigators to Gafford, authorities said.

"I drive the 580 every day, as well as many of my co-workers and friends. I can tell them that we are doing everything we can to ensure their safety," said John Torres, ATF

► **SHOOTINGS:** Page A14



KIM KOMENICH / The Chronicle

Stuart Sanders and Ross Ladouceur (in tuxedos) were unable to obtain a marriage license because their appointment was an hour after the court ruling.

29-DAY DRAMA: S.F. unleashed a 'gay-marriage tsunami'

By Suzanne Herel
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Two days before Valentine's Day, a lesbian couple who had been together for 50 years quietly entered San Francisco City Hall and exchanged marriage vows.

And so it began.

The same-sex union of activists Del Martin, 83, and Phyllis Lyon, 79, opened a 29-day drama and placed San Francisco in the center of a national debate that had been simmering for decades. At the same time, it raised the city's new young mayor to the status of national political figure, praised by some and reviled by others.

Mayor Gavin Newsom, a straight, married Irish Catholic whom many had pegged as conservative during his campaign, hadn't been in office a full two weeks before he made the surprise decision to order the county clerk to issue same-sex marriage licenses. After hashing out the plan with advisers, the date of battle was set: Feb. 12.

His action was a watershed moment in the years of efforts by gays and lesbians to win the right to marry. In some places, they had acquired the status of domestic partners and recognition through commitment ceremonies. But the fight always stopped short of the issuance

► **MARRIAGE:** Page A20

What's next

The California Supreme Court will hold a hearing in late May or early June on whether San Francisco's mayor and city clerk overstepped their authority under state law by issuing same-sex marriage licenses. The court is to rule within 90 days of the hearing.

When the marriages began

Feb. 12

Number of same-sex marriages
4,161

Revenue to city

At \$82 for a marriage license and \$62 for a wedding ceremony, \$600,000.

Number of couples with marriage appointments*
2,688

*Same-sex and heterosexual couples

SURPRISE RULING: Newsom says the city will make a strong case

By Bob Egelko
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt Thursday to same-sex weddings in San Francisco and said it would decide within months whether the city had the authority to issue marriage licenses in defiance of state law.

The justices' unanimous orders at least temporarily froze ceremonies that have brought thousands of jubilant couples to City Hall in the last month, emboldened local officials in far-away cities and towns to challenge their states' marriage laws and sparked a polit-

► **The weddings:** "Now I know how African Americans felt when they tried to go and vote," says one would-be groom who was turned away at City Hall. **A19**

ical furor that has become an issue in the presidential race.

The court's intervention, which caught officials at City Hall by surprise and left some frustrated couples in tears, was an unusual step.

The state's high court hasn't taken up a case directly, bypassing lower court review, in more than four years. Historically it has done so only in rare cases that it consid-

► **SAME SEX:** Page A18

Conflicting clues in bloody Madrid bombings

HUGE TOLL: Nearly 200 die, 1,400 hurt in horrific attacks on commuter trains

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICES

MADRID — In the most devastating terrorist attack in Spanish history, 10 bombs that detonated minutes apart ripped through crowded commuter trains at three Madrid stations early Thursday, killing nearly 200 people, wounding 1,400 and sending this capital into convulsions of shock and horror three days before a national election.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA, but after finding a van with detonators and tape of Ko-

ranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

"This is mass murder," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said after an emergency Cabinet meeting. "The date of March 11 now holds its place in infamy."

The morning rush-hour blasts paralyzed Madrid. Political parties canceled what remained of their election campaigns, Aznar's right-wing government declared three days of mourning, and frantic relatives searched for loved ones at morgues and hospitals.

► **MADRID:** Page A17



DENIS DOYLE / Associated Press

Rescue workers line up bodies of victims outside a bombed passenger train at the Atocha station in Madrid.

WHICH TERRORISTS? Theories point to Basque or Muslim extremists — or both

By Sebastian Rotella and Tracy Wilkinson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MADRID — The size and savagery of Thursday's synchronized train station bombings suggests a significant shift in tactics by Basque separatists — or the work of an entirely new player in Spain.

Spanish authorities are wrestling with competing theories over who was responsible for the attacks that killed nearly 200 people and wounded approximately 1,400 others. Swift to blame ETA militants fighting to secede from

► **The danger:** Months ago, Bay Area transit operators increased security in and around commuter railcars, buses and stations. **A16**

► **The shock:** Spaniards in the Bay Area describe their reactions: "stunned and sickened and then really angry." **A17**

Spain, top officials by the end of the day were forced to acknowledge that they were pursuing a more complex investigation.

"Could it have been Islamic fundamentalists?" one senior

► **BOMBINGS:** Page A17

BUSINESS

United Airlines is rehiring some furloughed mechanics to work at its SFO maintenance center. **C1**

DATEBOOK

"Wonderfalls," on Fox, is a terrific new show that viewers shouldn't miss, says Tim Goodman. **E1**



WEATHER

Mostly sunny skies. Highs, upper 70s. Lows to low 40s. **B10**

Bridge/Chess.....E15
Classified.....J1
Autos.....G1
Homes.....J4
Jobs.....J2

Comics.....E14
Crosswords.....E15, E18
Editorials.....B8
Horoscope.....E15
Lottery.....B2

Market Report.....C4
Movies.....E12, E16
Obituaries.....B6, B7
Television.....E17
Theater.....E2

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