



Animated "Triplets" will make you smile

GO-DO, PAGE 1D

# The Daytona Beach News-Journal

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES

**FRIDAY**  
MARCH 12, 2004

**TODAY'S FORECAST**

Still a little cool, but this is more like it.  
High: Mid-70s. Low: Mid-50s. **PAGE 8C**

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGES**

Calif. court orders halt;  
Mass. moves toward ban  
**NATION, PAGE 3A**

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# Bombs slash Madrid; al-Qaida link checked

## Close to 200 die in blasts

By **MAR ROMAN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**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 the first three bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Seven other bombings followed on other trains. 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 Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the militant group seeking greater Basque autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared. The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the

SEE **MADRID**, PAGE 10A



Firefighters remove a body from a bomb-damaged passenger train Thursday after 10 explosions rocked trains and stations in Madrid. The blasts killed nearly 200 people and injured nearly 1,500 others.

Associated Press/**PAUL WHITE**

## Bombing Timeline

**In less than 20 minutes Thursday, 10 terrorist bombs tore through trains and stations at the height of morning rush hour in Madrid, Spain.**

**7:39 A.M.:** Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station.

**7:44 A.M.:** Four backpack bombs explode on a commuter train entering Atocha station.

**7:49 A.M.:** Two bombs explode on a double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station.

**7:49 A.M.:** A backpack bomb explodes as a commuter train enters Santa Eugenia station.

**10 A.M.:** Police carry out controlled explosions of three booby-trap backpack bombs; two in Atocha and one in El Pozo. They believe the attackers planned to set off the three bombs after the initial wave of attacks.



News-Journal/**ROGER SIMMS**

"Keep Smyrna Beach Driving" members Kerry and William Cooper were part of a crowd that packed the Brannon Center in New Smyrna Beach for Thursday's city-county workshop.

## Beach drivers hope to steer council

By **MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM**  
STAFF WRITER

**NEW SMYRNA BEACH** — Though the Volusia County Council has never come out against cars on the beach, city officials and residents drove the council Thursday to make a show of support for the century-old tradition.

They packed the Brannon Center for a joint workshop between the council and City Commission. Though not permitted to speak, many residents made their feelings known with gold T-shirts and neon signs. And while county officials tried to reassure them that beach driving is not in jeopardy, they wanted it in writing.

County Council members ultimately complied, saying they would consider a resolution on behalf of beach driving at their meeting next Thursday.

"We are in support of beach driving; the majority of us are," said County Councilman Dwight Lewis.

Some don't trust the county to hold firm in that commitment.

SEE **BEACH**, PAGE 12A

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**TALK ABOUT IT**

How important is beach driving to you?

Share your thoughts:  
www.news-journalonline.com

## Senate considers added tax on small tobacco brands

By **JIM SAUNDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

**TALLAHASSEE** — Dosal Tobacco Corp. doesn't have glossy marketing campaigns or sell its cigarettes at big chain grocery stores.

Instead, low-budget customers are more likely to fork over a couple of bucks for a pack of Dosal's 305, DTC or Romy cigarettes at a mom-and-pop neighborhood store.

But with brand-name cigarette prices going up in recent years, Dosal and other discount tobacco companies have started selling more and more

SEE **TOBACCO**, PAGE 12A

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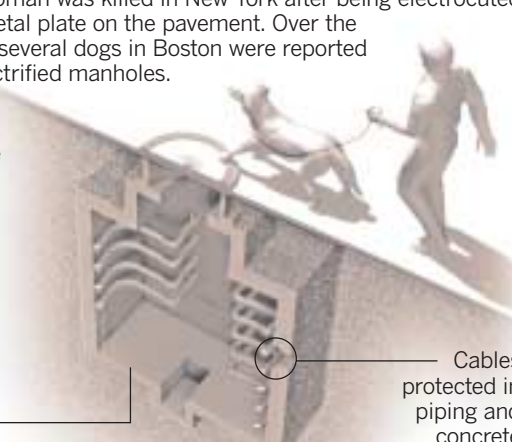
## Hidden hazards threaten city life

In January, a woman was killed in New York after being electrocuted walking on a metal plate on the pavement. Over the past few years, several dogs in Boston were reported shocked by electrified manholes.

A manhole or a light pole can be electrified when a power line is cut and exposed during a dig.

Electrical cables are connected in a manhole.

SOURCE: AP



Cables protected in piping and concrete

Associated Press

## Urban walkers face shock from streets

By **HELENA PAYNE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When a New Yorker walking her dogs was electrocuted in January by faulty wiring under the pavement, it seemed like the freakiest of accidents — until several pets in other big cities were killed or shocked in the weeks that followed.

Now utilities are rushing to fix the problems — blamed largely on work crews tearing up the streets — and to reassure the public. Dog owners, meanwhile, are buying booties for their pets to insulate their paws.

Experts say the phenomenon is a result of an ever-expanding network of underground lines and constant digging by work crews.

SEE **SHOCK**, PAGE 12A

## Embattled pastor requesting leave

Bethune-Cookman College's chaplain, the Rev. Michael A. Frazier, is reportedly seeking a leave of absence so he can care for his terminally ill mother and clear his name.

LOCAL, PAGE 1C



## THE FAST LANE

Keeping you on track for today, tomorrow

### 'Do-it-for-me'

Boomers, with little or no time for yardwork, have created a boom in pro gardening services.

LOCAL, PAGE 1C



## Coming Saturday: Take a hi-tech hike

Using a Global Positioning System device to locate a box hidden in the woods is "caching" on.

ACCENT



## Bound for Jamaica

Haiti's Jean-Bertrand Aristide is planning a return to the Caribbean.

WORLD, PAGE 9A



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## In the driver's seat

Female employees at Volvo Car Corp. have designed a car especially for women.

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