

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

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NEWSMAKER



South Korea Poised To Oust President After Rowdy Hearing

SEOUL, South Korea — Parliament voted to impeach President Roh Moo-hyun on illegal electioneering and incompetence charges Friday after hours of scuffles and dramatic protests. Roh's presidential powers will be suspended while the matter is referred to the Constitutional Court for final approval to unseat Roh. The court has 180 days to rule. The impeachment passed 193-2, well above the 181 votes needed. Many pro-Roh lawmakers had been forcibly removed from the chamber by security and were unable to vote.

A shoving match was sparked earlier when pro-Roh Uri Party members tried to stop Assembly Speaker Park Kwan-yong from taking the podium, the only place he can call a vote.

Roh was accused of breaking election laws by stumping for the Uri Party in the April 15 parliamentary campaign. The National Elections Commission ruled he had engaged in illegal electioneering, a minor infraction.

Opposition lawmakers also charge Roh with incompetence at a time the country is trying to balance tensions over North Korea's nuclear programs with a fragile economic recovery.

The Associated Press

Cutting Of Lynch Leaves Community Wounded

LONGTIME BUCS STAR PRAISED FOR SERVICE

By JOE HENDERSON
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TAMPA — Ken Turkel had just opened the concession stand at Bayshore Little League for the beginning of spring registration.

Parents waited patiently in line that chilly January morning to enroll their children in the league. Turkel was surprised to see John Lynch, safety for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, at the head of the line, his 4-year-old son, Jake, at his side.

"You don't expect to see a guy like that standing in line with everybody else, but there he was," Turkel said. "I'm not someone who gets google-eyed over athletes, but this was kind of cool. John just seemed like a responsible parent. A good, good guy. A normal guy."

On Thursday, the Bucs cut adrift that good, good guy — that normal guy — after 11 standout seasons, including five in which he went to the Pro Bowl. Lynch was told he is free to arrange a trade to another team. The Bucs will have to replace a safety on the field. Tampa will have to replace an icon. Lynch, born in San Diego and educated at Stanford, became the new face of the Bucs during their revival from an inept franchise to Super Bowl champion. Friends painted a picture of someone who was larger than life on Sunday afternoons during football season but lived in the real world the rest of the time. He was blessed with ath-

leticism and a sense of humor. See **LYNCH LEAVING, Page 5** ▶ "He has been a role model."

▶ On TBO.com, watch John Lynch's news conference from San Diego and Bucs GM Bruce Allen's news conference from Tampa. View photos of Lynch's Bucs career and read what people are saying about the move.

RELATED STORY, Sports, Page 1: Lynch wanted to retire as a Buc.



The Associated Press

John Lynch has helped many people through his foundation and by working with churches and other groups.

'All Of Spain Is Suffering' As Bombings' Toll Mounts



The Associated Press

Coordinated bombings on passenger trains in Madrid, Spain, killed at least 192 and injured more than 1,400 Thursday morning.

LETTER PURPORTS LINK TO AL-QAIDA GROUP

By ELAINE SCIOLINO
The New York Times

MADRID, Spain — Ten bombers ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities first blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van with detonators and a tape of Koranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to al-Qaida took responsibility in a

letter delivered to an Arab newspaper. An American counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden in October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

The bombings came in coordinated explosions that went off shortly before 8 a.m. as people headed to work and school. The police found and detonat-

See **SPAIN BOMBINGS, Page 4** ▶ France raises alert level.



Tribune photo by JASON BEHNKEN

"This never should happen in life. We all have the right to live in peace."

JAIME RINCON

Ballet director, visiting Tampa, worried about family in Madrid

Story, Page 4

Partners Gain Right To Benefits In Tampa

CITY HEALTH PLAN EXTENDS TO MATES STARTING IN '05

By TED BYRD and ANDY REID
The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — Gay and other unmarried partners of city employees will be allowed municipal health benefits under an order signed Thursday by Mayor Pam Iorio.



Iorio Mayor's order fulfills campaign pledge.

Fulfilling a campaign pledge from a year ago, Iorio made the move effective Jan. 1, 2005, after the city's benefits enrollment period in October.

To qualify, employees would provide documented evidence and sign a "declaration of domestic partnership" attesting they have lived with their partners for more than six months and intend to remain partners indefinitely.

"It's a progressive step," Iorio said. "It acknowledges not all employees are married, but they are in committed relationships."

Some public officials and community leaders welcomed the move.

"Fantastic," said Nadine Smith, director of Equality Florida, a Tampa-based gay rights group. "The mayor has had a long-standing commitment to equality."

The issue comes as debates about gay rights, including marriage and civil unions, rage from California to Massachusetts. Such talk has proved sticky for Tampa in the past.

In 1991, protests erupted as Tampa and Hillsborough County

See **HEALTH BENEFITS, Page 5** ▶ County officials don't foresee change.

RELATED, Page 5: Court halts California weddings.

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TODAY'S FORECAST
Go outside and bask in the pleasantness. High 75, low 51.



54% of The Tampa Tribune is printed on recycled paper.



Risky Supplement

The Food and Drug Administration tells andro makers to cease production of the steroidlike substance.

DETAILS, MoneySense, Page 1

House Votes To Impose Six-Figure Indecency Fines

MEASURE AFFECTS FCC, BROADCASTERS, ARTISTS

By CARL HULSE
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Saying that much of the public is fed up with indecent television and radio programming, the U.S. House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to increase penalties on broadcasters and performers who violate federal standards.

Spurred by a racy Super Bowl halftime show that included the baring of singer Janet Jackson's right breast, the House voted

391-22 to raise the maximum fine for a broadcast license-holder to \$500,000 from \$27,500.

The penalty for a performer also would rise to \$500,000 from the current \$11,000.

The measure would force the Federal Communications Commission to act more quickly on complaints and move to revoke the licenses of repeat offenders.

"For too long, we have told the entertainment industry that the federal government is unwilling to hold them accountable for their actions," said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa. "Today, we are saying enough is enough."

The bill, covering content broadcast over public airwaves

and not cable or satellite programs, was strongly backed by the White House.

"This legislation will make broadcast television and radio more suitable for family viewing," a White House statement said.

A similar measure emerging in the Senate would block Bush administration plans to allow large media companies to add outlets, a debate that helped stall a major spending bill last year. To go to the president, a Senate bill would

See **INDECENCY MEASURE, Page 4** ▶ Broadcasters seek self-regulation.

RELATED, Page 5: Bubba has eye on satellite radio.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Raises maximum fine against a broadcast license-holder from \$27,500 to \$500,000.
- ◆ Increases maximum fine against a performer from \$11,000 to \$500,000.
- ◆ Orders FCC to act on indecency complaints within 180 days.
- ◆ Mandates FCC to consider revoking license of any broadcaster found with three violations.