

“ I figured I had two options: I could say screw it and do what I wanted to do anyway or I could listen to her and let things get better. I made the right decision.

Justice Deweese, son of Mary Scruba, who helped turn her son's behavior around by attending a parenting class



Mary Scruba and her son, Justice Deweese

Passion for parenting

Fed-up parents go back to school to learn valuable parenting tools

By KIM EATON
West Hawaii Today

“ Doing drugs doesn't make you cool,” said by a 17-year-old, carries some weight. But it's how Justice Deweese feels. A year ago, Deweese was skipping school, disappearing for days on end, fighting with his mother and step-father. He said he was identifying with a group of drug users.

Deweese's problems began when he was 15. He's now a junior at Kealakehe High School.

“I was tired of not being able to do what I wanted, when I wanted,” he said. “I was p....d off at the world.”

His mother, Mary Scruba, was frustrated.

“I didn't seem to be getting anywhere with the 'you're grounded and stay at home' type of discipline,” she said. “I was looking for any rope to pull me up. I wanted peace in my home again.”

Scrubas heard of a parenting class taught by Douglass Bartlett, Kealakehe's school-based therapist.

See PASSION: Page 6A



MICHAEL DARDEN—WHT

Kealakehe High School junior Justice Deweese shares a light moment with his girl friend sophomore Allison Thomas during a break in Deweese's track practice routine. After Deweese's mother Mary Scruba attended a parenting class taught by Kealakehe High School therapist Douglass Bartlett at the school, their relationship improved, as did Deweese's attitude toward school.

Council takes early look at tentative budget

Budget to be final in May, after tax assessments are certified

By TIFFANY EDWARDS
West Hawaii Today

HILO — At the onset of their budget review Thursday, Chairman James Arakaki, of Hilo, urged his colleagues “to take the bulls by the horns as policy makers,” and suggested periodically throughout the day that they shouldn't be accepting the proposed 2004-05 budget as-is.

Arakaki acknowledged in the 14 years he has served on the County Council there have been times he hasn't contested recommendations of mayoral administrations. He admitted he hadn't viewed much more than the mayor's summary in the 11 days he has had a copy of the preliminary budget.

He said he didn't really want to

get into the details of the budget, but he reminded fellow councilmembers it is “(their) duty to look at the budget to see what the constituents really need.”

“They can justify everything in here,” he said, referring to county administrators' proposed \$246.5 million budget. The budget reflects an 11.5 percent, or \$25.5 million,

See BUDGET: Page 7A

192 die after Madrid blast

Series of bombs on train was worst attack in Spain's history

By MAR ROMAN

Associated Press Writer

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 two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. 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 on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA,

INSIDE

Investigators befuddled by identity of attackers
Page 3A

the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

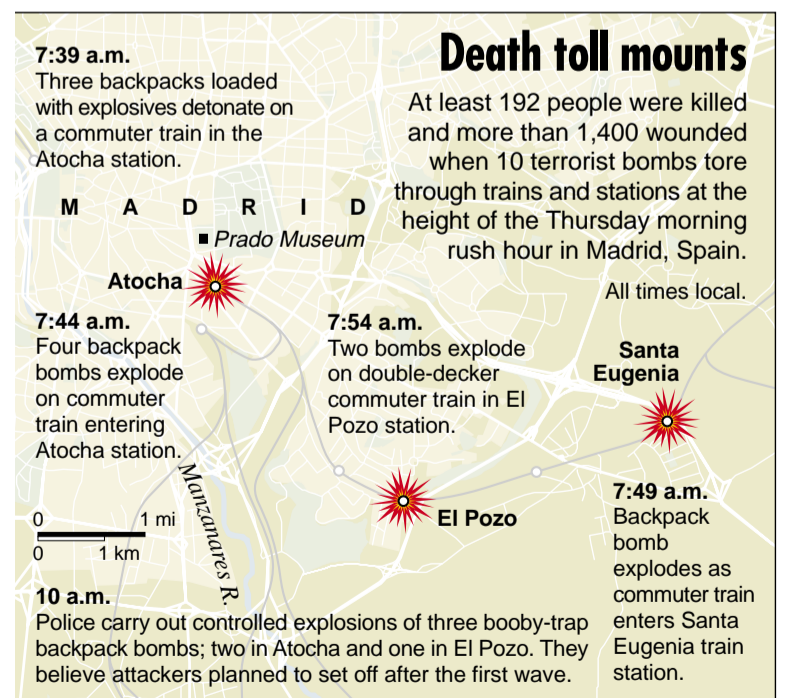
Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2 1/2 years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and detonated three other bombs.

“An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, repulsion and anger,” King

See BLAST: Page 2A



SOURCES: Interior Ministry; ESRI

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