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EXPLOSIONS
Terrorist bombings kill more than 190 in Spain
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SEMIFINALS SET
Russell, Boyd County girls win in 16th Region tourney
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Court blocks gay marriage in San Francisco

Massachusetts lawmakers move toward proposed ban

By DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages in the only state where they have been ruled legal. Teary-eyed couples were quickly

turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where more than 3,700 gay couples have tied the knot in the last month.

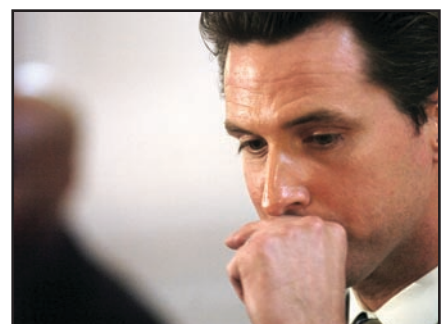
"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be denied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions. The amendment won early approval, but still must weather several additional votes and anticipated maneuvering by gay marriage supporters.

Massachusetts took center stage in

the national debate over gay marriage following a landmark decision by its highest court in November that was reaffirmed last month. The rulings set the stage for the nation's first legally sanctioned gay marriages on May 17.

Lawmakers seeking to put a gay marriage ban before Massachusetts voters were unsuccessful during a



NOAH BERGER / AP
San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom pauses during a news conference Thursday in San Francisco.

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FROM THE HEART

Group awards schools \$60,000 for cardiac education

By ALLEN BLAIR
The Independent

MOREHEAD People come face to face with cardiac illness these days mostly after the fact, says Sara Howard.

That's after a heart attack, or near-death experience.

With always-on-the-go routines, fast food dinners after work and the like, it's hard to get adults to face that fact, as well as its prevention, said Howard, co-chair of From The Heart Inc. of Morehead.

"That's the lifestyle everybody's living today, and it's killing us," she said. "It's not unusual see a 30 year old with heart disease."

So, the cardiac education group pushed their help back a notch in age — to the seventh- and eighth-grade levels.

From The Heart awarded five middle schools, including East Carter and West Carter in Carter

County and Lewis and Rowan middle schools, \$12,000 each to help teach heart-healthy choices.

"What that money is for are blood pressure cuffs, scales, body fat analyzers, cholesterol screenings ... all to use during pre- and post-nine-week sessions," Howard said.

From The Heart has trained each middle school system, and now is providing teachers the equipment, she said.

Each child will get an exercise watch to use in class that tracks his/her heart rate, and you put the data into computer for a printout analysis of what happened to your body, Howard said.

Teachers are doing a lot about

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LEARNING LAW



JOHN FLAVELL / THE INDEPENDENT

Oakview Elementary School sixth-grader Clay Reynolds asks a witness questions during a mock trial at the school on Thursday.



Oakview Elementary School sixth-grader Katelyn Barker answers questions during a mock trial at the school. Barker played Babe the Blue Ox.



Student Ali Adkins listens to the testimony of Paul Bunyan, played by classmate Drew Royalty, during the trial.

Mock trial hands-on civics lesson

By MIKE JAMES
The Independent

ASHLAND The two legal teams strode into the courtroom with their power suits and briefcases.

The defendants were a little more casual, one clad in flannel with a knit watch cap and the other all in blue.

If one of the plaintiff's attorneys hadn't been wearing high-topped tennis shoes, you might have thought it was a real courtroom, once the trial started.

But then, they were all about 12 years old and their beaming parents were in the room as well, taking pictures and whispering to each other at each brilliant legal maneuver.

It was one of three mock trials at Oakview Elementary School Thursday, each of them pitting Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox against an alphabet soup of federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior.

These formidable adversaries had accused Bunyan and his blue companion of damaging the environment with their larger than life exploits.

The exercise was an elaborate civics lesson, in which students took on all the roles, from judge, jury and attorneys to plaintiffs and defendants.

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FLETCHER TAX PLAN

Higher cigarette tax now proposed

By CHARLES WOLFE
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT Gov. Ernie Fletcher on Thursday outlined a tax plan that included higher "sin taxes" on cigarettes and alcohol but lower income taxes on individuals and companies.

It would add a state tax to hotel and motel rooms, telephone calls, cable and satellite television. It would repeal the state tax on stocks, bonds and other "intangible property." It also would give a three-day "sales tax holiday" each year in time for back-to-school shopping.

Fletcher said details, including the amount of money to be gained or lost with each proposed change, would be released Friday. But he said the plan, at current revenue rates, would be "revenue neutral" — with neither a net gain nor a net loss of money — for

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Man ordered to apologize for dumping

Also must pick up 2 tons of garbage

By KIRSTEN STANLEY
The Independent

LOUISA Paul Stone faces a heavy penalty — picking up 2 tons of garbage he dumped illegally.

And, he'll have to apologize — in writing — for what he did.

The Fort Gay man pleaded guilty Wednesday in Lawrence County District Court to a Class D felony count of illegal dumping.

Lawrence County Solid Waste Coordinator Dennis Marcum said Stone was hired by individuals two weeks ago to take trash from Fort Gay and dispose of it at a landfill in Boyd County.

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