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MINNESOTA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER



40 high, 30 low

Forecast, Page 8B

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ROSEMOUNT

High school students get first-hand war reports

Local News, Page 1B

UPDATE

St. Paul fires cop who left scene of fatal bar shooting

Local News, Page 1B

NHL

Canucks' Todd Bertuzzi suspended for rest of season

Sports, Page 1D

FOCUS

St. Olaf will start a phone company

Business, Page 1C

THINGS TO DO

Johnny Depp makes "Secret Window" worth a peek

Movie reviews, Page 10E

SCORES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gophers 63, Purdue 52

BOYS STATE HOCKEY

Centennial 2, Holy Angels 0

Wayzata 6, Tartan 0

Moorhead 4, Elk River 3

Duluth East 2, Lakeville 0

Complete coverage in Sports, Page 1D

COMING UP SUNDAY

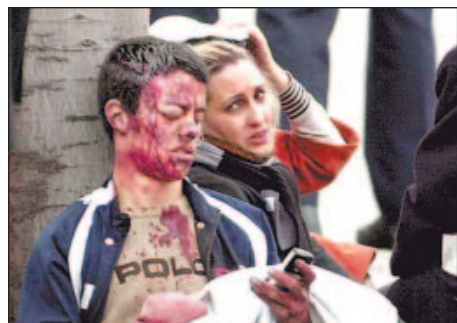


Prince's reign of fame

IN SHOWTIME

TERRORIST ATTACK IN SPAIN

10 BOMBS ■ 192 DEAD ■ 1,400 INJURED



JOSE HUESCA, ASSOCIATED PRESS
Two people injured by one of the blasts in Thursday's terrorist attack wait for aid outside the Atocha station in Madrid.



DENIS DOYLE, ASSOCIATED PRESS
Rescue workers line up dozens of bodies beside a bomb-damaged passenger train at the Atocha station.



JON DIMIS, ASSOCIATED PRESS
Protesters take to the street after the bombings to protest the Basque separatist group ETA in Pamplona, Spain.

Madrid mourns a day of terror

Basque separatist group, al-Qaida suspected

BY KEITH B. RICHBURG
Washington Post

MADRID, Spain — Ten explosions minutes apart tore through four packed commuter trains Thursday in Madrid, killing at least 192 people in the worst terrorist attack in modern Spanish history.

More than 1,400 people were wounded in the rush-hour attack, just three days before national elections.

Government officials and the media immediately blamed the attacks on the Basque separatist group ETA, which has waged a 30-year fight against the Spanish government.

But Interior Minister Angel Acebes later said the government was investigating a possible link to Islamic extremists after a van was found carrying seven detonator caps and a cassette tape in Arabic containing verses from the Quran.

The van was parked in the town of Alcala de Henares about 15 miles east of Madrid, where at least three of the targeted trains originated.

"I have given our security forces instructions not to rule out anything," Acebes said, adding that he still considered

MADRID ATTACKS, 5A

INSIDE

What's ahead: In a country with homegrown terror, investigators will face a struggle to sort out who's to blame for the Madrid attack. **Page 4A**

U.S. markets shudder: Edgy investors sent stocks skidding after the bombings. **Page 2C**



PAUL WHITE, ASSOCIATED PRESS
Firefighters carry out a body on a stretcher from a devastated passenger train Thursday in Madrid after 10 explosions on trains in the Spanish capital killed at least 192 rush-hour commuters and wounded more than 1,400 in the country's worst terrorist attack ever.

BUS STRIKE MORE COVERAGE, 1B

Retirement eligibility is at the core of Metro Transit strike labor dispute Bus driver couldn't risk losing benefits

BY JULIE FORSTER
Pioneer Press

After hip surgery and considering the battery of pills he takes for high blood pressure, Henry Baltes, 65, decided he couldn't gamble with his health care.

As he closed in on his 10th year as a Metro Transit bus driver, he quit in order to lock in retiree health care benefits because he worried about losing them in contract negotiations with the Metropolitan Council.

Baltes knows he held an increasingly rare gem of benefits, and "I didn't believe the contract would



SHERRI LAROSE, PIONEER PRESS
Henry Baltes holds his dog, Ruby, at his home in Minneapolis. He's recovering from hip surgery.

ever be settled the way we wanted," he said. His predicament is at the center of a strike, now in its second week, that pits the bus drivers and

BUS STRIKE, 7A

Western Wisconsin soldier killed in Iraq

Ellsworth native, 23, was near end of tour

BY KEVIN HARTER
Pioneer Press

A 23-year-old Army Reservist from Ellsworth, Wis., was killed when an explosive device hit his convoy north of Baghdad, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

Spc. Bert Hoyer, assigned to the 652nd Engineer Co. based in Ellsworth, was killed in the explosion Wednesday at Baqubah, Iraq.

Hoyer's parents, Larry and Peggy Hoyer, said they had last talked to their son on Sunday. A military officer informed the rural Ellsworth family of Hoyer's death on Wednesday afternoon.

Standing in frigid weather on the front porch of their log-sided home, Larry and Peggy Hoyer, joined by daughter Annie, told reporters about their son.

SOLDIER KILLED, 8A

St. Paul hopes Field's stays

City's 2001 deal had 'incentives' for Target, any future owner

BY ROBERT INGRASSIA
Pioneer Press

When Target Corp. tacked a "for sale" sign on its Marshall Field's chain this week, St. Paul leaders started worrying about the fate of downtown's only surviving department store.

The city center, already reduced to a shadow of its once mighty retailing self, would suffer a big blow — spiritually, if not economically — should the 41-year-old brick behemoth on Cedar Street close.

On Thursday, however, city officials dusted off an ace card they hope will ensure that Marshall Field's stays put for years

ST. PAUL FIELD'S, 10A

On Page 1C: Selling stores would alter the retail landscape.

Medicare agency withheld bill's cost

Drug-benefit expert muzzled before vote

BY TONY PUGH
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The government's top expert on Medicare costs was warned that he would be fired if he told key lawmakers about Bush administration cost estimates that could have torpedoed congressional passage of the White House-backed Medicare prescription-drug plan.

When the House passed the benefit by five votes in November, the White House was embracing an estimate by the Congressional Budget Office that it would cost \$395 billion in the first 10 years. But for months, administration analysts in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had concluded that the drug benefit could cost upward of \$100 billion more than that.

MEDICARE COSTS, 11A



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