



REBS GO HOME

Vanderbilt beats Ole Miss 70-50 in SEC Tournament, 1D



SPRING BREAK

Families spending big bucks to get away, 1E

The Clarion-Ledger

Real Mississippi clarionledger.com

Friday, March 12, 2004

Jackson, Miss. ■ 50c

TERRORISTS TARGET SPAIN

Train bombs kill 192 in Madrid

1,400 injured in attacks on 4 commuter trains

The 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.



Aznar

“March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy.”

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, 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 2½ 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 attacks also reawakened terrorism fears among investors. Stocks fell in London and in New York, where the Dow Jones industrial average dropped nearly 170 points. On Friday, Tokyo stocks opened sharply lower. See **ATTACKS, 5A**

INSIDE ▶ DOW PLUMMETS ON TERRORISM FEARS, 1C



Paul White/The Associated Press

Firefighters carry a body on a stretcher from a bomb-damaged passenger train, following a number of explosions on trains in Madrid on Thursday. The blasts killed at least 192 rush-hour commuters and wounded 1,421 in Spain's worst terrorist attack ever. The attacks come three days before Spain's general elections.

Board to address unrest at USM

College president expected to be topic of next week's meeting

By Riva Brown

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The state College Board is expected to address the unrest at the University of Southern Mississippi when it meets next week.

“The board has to address it and determine what resolution can be made so this institution can get back to being an institution of higher learning,” board member Virginia Shanteau Newton of Gulfport said Thursday.

The paid suspensions of sociology professor Frank Glamser and English professor Gary Stringer a week ago today led to student-led protests and faculty no-confidence votes against USM President Shelby Thames.

Thames said he is “very disappointed and very saddened” by the votes but vowed to continue working for the university. “I will do that as long as I possibly can,” he said during a Thursday telephone conference with the news media.

Thames also said he “cannot in good conscience” allow the professors back in the classroom, although See **USM, 5A**



Thames



Glamser



Stringer

INSIDE

■ Marshall Ramsey cartoon, **12A**

House passes pay increase for counties

Bill moves to the Senate, which has already passed a similar measure

By Andy Kanengiser

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The state House on Thursday passed a bill that would require counties to raise salaries for sheriff's and other county officials, some as much as 20 percent.

Supervisors, Justice Court judges and prosecutors also would get their first raise in eight years.

“The fight is not over, but this is a good start,” said Coahoma County Sheriff Andrew Thompson, among a group of sheriffs who watched the two-hour debate. “I've been trying for years on this bill.”

House Bill 1429 would raise sheriff's salaries, now as low as \$42,000 in rural counties, to a minimum of \$65,000.

Critics say the bill probably will force some counties to raise taxes.

The bill passed 91-21 and goes to the Senate, which passed a similar measure on Feb. 20.

If the Senate changes the House bill, it goes back to the House. If the House rejects the bill, it goes to a conference committee, where negotiators will work out differences.

“This is something we've tried to do the last four to five years. Finally, the House decided this is a good idea,” said Sen. Gray Tollison, D-Oxford.

Gov. Haley Barbour has not taken a position, said Jim Perry, the governor's policy director has said. Rep. Mike Lott, R-Petal, who voted against the See **RAISES, 5A**

BILL STATUS

For bill status, go to <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>

Jan. 6-May 9

INSIDE

■ More legislative coverage, **1B**

If your salary tops \$100,000, IRS may be auditing

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS increased its audits of individuals and couples making more than \$100,000 last year, focusing most of the extra attention on people making \$250,000 or more.

Still, even high-income taxpayers faced low odds of being called upon to document their expenses and deductions. Despite the 24 percent increase for taxpayers who earned \$100,000 or more, the IRS audited only one in 95 returns filed by big earners.

Individuals at all income levels faced slightly higher chances of an audit last year. Overall, the IRS examined 1 in 153 returns last year, compared with 1 in 174 the previous year. The audit rate still lags from the rates in the mid-1990s when the agency looked at about 1 in 60 individual returns.

In an effort to best use its money and manpower, the IRS has focused its search for unpaid taxes on high-income individuals, corporations and income hidden in offshore accounts. The IRS last year reaped \$35.5 billion through collection efforts last year, the most in a decade.

Audits of the nation's largest corporations, nevertheless, fell for the 8th consecutive year. About 12 percent of corporations with assets exceeding \$10 million were audited, compared with more than 14 percent the year before.

Group vows to continue boycott of county schools

Jo Gregory addresses School Board for first time since boycott

By Jeremy Hudson

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RAYMOND — The leader of a citizens group pledged to continue a boycott of the Hinds County School system after addressing the school board Thursday for the first time since launching an organized attempt to oust Superintendent Phyfa Eiland.

Jo Gregory, spokeswoman for Hinds County Citizens for Public Education, used her five minutes before the board to question why black students are suspended for bad behavior and not offered counseling beforehand.

“We believe school officials have gone overboard in the suspensions of black children,” said Gregory, who has no children in the school district.

She ended up in a back-and-forth debate with Board President Greg McMurray after she said three



Barbara Gaunt/The Clarion-Ledger

As Superintendent Phyfa Eiland listens (background), Jo Gregory addresses the Hinds County School Board about disciplinary procedures. Gregory, representing parents in the system, said some parents feel school officials are suspending black students for minor reasons.

black students had been arrested at school and taken to the Hinds County Juvenile Justice Center without having their parents notified. McMurray interrupted her, saying that never happened. “We deal with facts here,” McMurray told Gregory. “We don't deal with hearsay.”

As the debate continued, a woman wearing an anti-Eiland T-shirt stood up and said, “Miss Phyfa ain't doing no good, either,” before See **BOARD, 5A**



FORECAST
Mostly sunny and warm with a light breeze. Cool tonight. **Weather, 2A**



64 HIGH 41 LOW

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