

## **GET STUNG IN A.C.**

Sting talks about life, 'Sacred Love' and music ahead of his Borgata show. Inside

## **BATTLE FOR NO. 1**

State high school wrestling tournament begins today in A.C. Sports, Page D1



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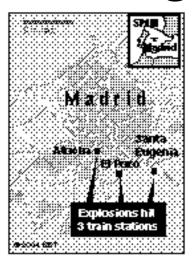
WEATHER: High 50, Low 28. Details, Page A2

# Bombs kill 192 in Madrid



Rescue workers cover bodies by a bomb-damaged passenger train after explosions in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday, three days before Spain's general elections. More than 1,400 were wounded in Spain's worst terrorist attack ever. Below right, an injured man walks outside the Atocha rail station.

# Officials blame ETA, then say al Qaida group claimed attack



By MAR ROMAN

of bombs hidden in backpacks the Atocha station in the heart exploded in quick succession of Madrid. Seven other bomb-

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 Spain's history.

Panicked rush-hour com- See Spain, Page A4

muters trampled each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after the first three **MADRID, Spain** — A series bombs went off in one train in ings followed on other

> ■ Bombings cast pall over anti-terrorism

> > meeting. Page A4

Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cellular phones rang unanswered on

the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them. "March 11, 2004, now holds

trains.



# \$1.5B. bond could break N.J. credit rating

Without significant change in the state's budget, a downgrade is likely, Moody's Investor Service says. The move would cost the state millions in premiums. By PETE McALEER Statehouse Bureau, (609) 292-4935

**TRENTON** — New Jersey borrowed more money to balance its budget over the past three years than any state except California, according to a report released Thursday by one of the three major Wall Street rating agencies.

Moody's Investors Service placed New Jersey's bond rating on the watchlist for a possible downgrade, a move that could cost the state millions in higher premiums paid to investors. The downgrade is likely, Moody's said, without a "significant change" in the proposed budget or state rev-

The report warned that the state's proposal to balance its budget with a \$1.5 billion bonď — added to last year's decision to borrow \$3.1 billion from a tobacco settlement could leave New Jersey with prolonged budget problems even after other states recover from an improved economy.

"The budget proposal con-

templates a relatively buoyant level of state spending and a substantial additional installment of long-term bonds to pay operating expenses," the report said. "In light of this, and likely continued spending pressures next year, the state's budget problems could extend

See Credit, Page A5

# Police arrest 10 in Atlantic City-NYC drug ring

By BRIDGET MURPHY Staff Writer, (609) 272-7257

**ATLANTIC CITY** — Dealing a defeat to an alleged drug cartel that reportedly trafficked as much as about \$1 million in cocaine from New York City every month, authorities announced 10 arrests and a hefty drug seizure Thursday.

The suspects would cook the cocaine into crack before selling it here at the Stanley S. Holmes Village housing project, according to

Authorities started an intensive investigation into drug sales at the midtown complex, a cluster of low-rise brick buildings off Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Baltic

See Raid, Page A8



Aaron Laramore, left, Frank Watson, center, and **Eddie Davis** are arraigned in Superior Court in Mays Landing on Thursday. Twenty more suspects still remain at large.

Staff photo

**CALL 272-1010 FOR HOME DELIVERY OF THE PRESS IN ATLANTIC COUNTY** 

by Scott E. Stetzer

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### **BOTTOM LINES**

The cash register does the talking at Pleasantville's Rainbow Cleaners.

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# Indecent broadcast could be \$500,000 problem

■ The U.S. House of Representatives approves a measure to boost the maximum fine to \$500,000. Some local broadcasters say it's a good idea; others say it's 'much ado about nothing.'

By J. STAAS HAUGHT Staff Writer, (609) 272-7253

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed a bill that would hit broadcasters with heftier fines for airing indecent material on radio and TV. Local radio-station managers are trying to decipher the message the proposal is send-

ing.
"I think from the standpoint that's that given everything that's happened recently regarding indecency investigations and hearings going on with the Janet Jackson/Justin Timberlake thing, it shouldn't be a surprise that we are where we are now," said Dan Sullivan, general manager for Northfieldbased Millennium Radio New Jersey, which operates six stations in the state including Millville-based 97.3 FM and Atlantic City's ESPN Radio, found at 1450 AM.

Sullivan said he supports the measure, which would boost

See FCC, Page A7

## FDA moves to stop sale of andro

By MEREDITH D'AGNOLO For The Press, (609) 396-9472

**TRENTON** — The federal government ordered companies Thursday to stop selling the over-the-counter dietary supplement androstenedione, commonly called andro, unless they can prove it is safe.

The Food and Drug Administration is concerned that andro, which helps the body create testosterone, carries the same health risks as anabolic steroids. The agency warned 23 andro manufacturers to cease

sales or face ■Local sports zure of their products and other penalties.

federal sei- duo welcomes scrutiny on andro. Sports, Page D1

"Anyone who takes these products in sufficient quantities to build muscle or improve performance is putting himself or herself at risk for serious longterm and potentially irreversible health consequences," FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan said Thursday.

Among the risks FDA cited are heart and liver damage, and some gender-specific prob-

See Andro, Page A5

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