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FRIDAY, March 12, 2004 A B C

FirstWORD

John Kerry planning Sunday trip to Akron

AKRON: U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential front-runner, will make his first



campaign visit to Akron on Sunday.

The event will be a rally aimed at getting Kerry's message out, said Wayne Jones, finance chairman of

the Summit County Democratic Party.

Kerry's team was in Akron on Thursday to scout out locations for the event. Details of the visit have not been finalized.

Jones said Kerry would be coming to Akron from Allentown, Pa., and likely would appear between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

DISH Network ends blackout of channels

After a two-day blackout that brought the wrath of satellite television viewers by the thousands, EchoStar Communications Corp. and Viacom Inc. reached a deal that restored several popular channels such as MTV and Nickelodeon to the DISH Network.

The two sides reached a deal early Thursday. Within 20 minutes, Viacom's channels, including VH1, Comedy Central and BET, were back on DISH, EchoStar spokesman Marc Lumpkin said.

EchoStar had dropped Viacom channels early Tuesday in a dispute over fees. About 9 million DISH satellite television viewers were affected, including those in Northeast Ohio.

First Somali family arrives in Akron

The Mugaza family, Akron's newest immigrant residents, arrived tired and bleary-eyed at the Akron-Canton Airport shortly before 10:30 Thursday night.

The family of four from Somalia were greeted by staffers from Akron's International Institute and two University of Akron students from Somalia who acted as translators.

The 38-year-old woman who arrived with a daughter and two cousins are the first of 50 to 60 Somalis who will settle in Akron over the next several months.

The Mugaza family, who left a refugee camp in Kenya on Wednesday morning, were to settle in their new Akron home Thursday night.

HEADLINES

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- Two U.S. soldiers killed by Iraqi roadside bomb. **A6**
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Today's weather



32° High 17° Low
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Terrorist bombs rip Spanish trains



PAUL WHITE/Associated Press

Firefighters carry out a stretcher bearing the body of a blast victim Thursday from the twisted wreckage of a train in Madrid. Nearly 200 people were killed and more than 1,400 were wounded in the terrorist attack.

Ten blasts kill at least 192, wound 1,400

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times

MADRID, SPAIN: Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van

with detonators and a tape of Quranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to al-Qaeda took responsibility in a letter delivered to an Arab newspaper. An American counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed

there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden last October.

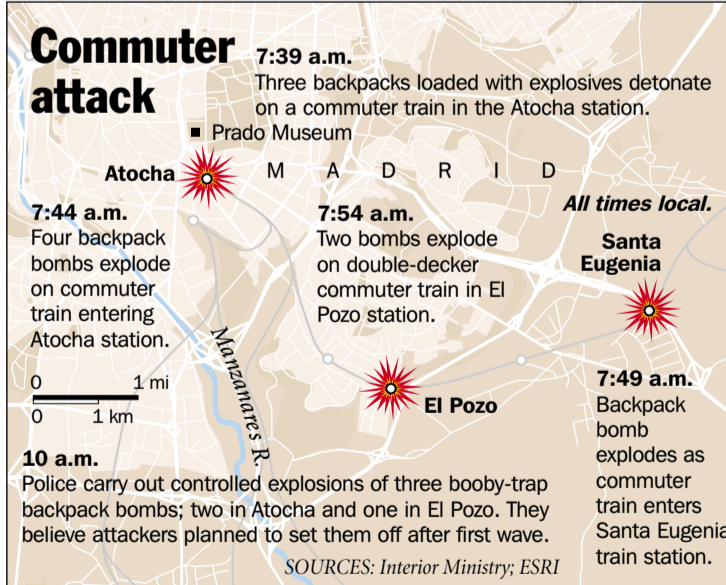
As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

Please see **Terror, A8**



JOSE HUESCA/Associated Press

Bloodied survivors wait for assistance Thursday at the Atocha train station after a series of bombings in Madrid.



Associated Press

Medicare estimates withheld

Sources say Bush official threatened to fire expert if he revealed cost of drug plan

By Tony Pugh
Knight Ridder Newspapers

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

tion-drug plan.

When the House of Representatives passed the benefit by five votes last 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 the administration's own analysts in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had concluded re-

peatedly that the drug benefit could cost upward of \$100 billion more than that.

Withholding the higher cost projections was important because the White House was facing a revolt from 13 conservative House Republicans who'd vowed to vote against the Medicare drug bill if it

Please see **Medicare, A9**

Charities to inherit nearly all of estate

Burton D. Morgan bequeaths \$103 million to foundations

By Julie Wallace
Beacon Journal staff writer

A Hudson entrepreneur who died last year left his more than \$100 million fortune to two charitable foundations, one bearing his name and the other his wife's.

The estate of Burton D. Morgan, valued at \$103,695,784, according to an incomplete inventory on file with Summit County Probate Court, was divided equally between the Burton D. Morgan Foundation and the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation after token gifts for family members were subtracted.



Burton D. Morgan

Morgan, who founded Morgan Adhesives, now known as MacTac, in Stow, died March 6, 2003, at the age of 86.

"Burt was an extremely charitable man and has left a legacy that we have the responsibility to carry out," said John Frank, president of the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

The more than \$50 million donation to the

Please see **Charity, A10**

Calif. court blocks gay weddings

Review of S.F. mayor's authority is to follow. Mass. ban advances

By David Kravets
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO: The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday pending a review. Meanwhile, 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 4,161 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

Please see **Weddings, A9**

Plusquellic's top economic aide will retire

James Phelps, development chief since '87, is architect of rebound

By Julie Wallace
Beacon Journal staff writer

Seventeen years ago, Mayor Don Plusquellic walked into City Hall with a Cabinet inherited from his predecessor, fellow Democrat Tom Sawyer.

At the time, Plusquellic made only one change. James Phelps, a former city planner who had departed for a job in the private sector, was brought back into the fold. He became the first - and only - deputy mayor of economic development in Plusquellic's tenure.



Phelps

Until now. On Thursday, the mayor announced that the 59-year-old Phelps - whom the mayor calls the best economic development director in Ohio - plans to retire in late April from his \$111,280-a-year job.

Please see **Phelps, A8**