



Early madness

Find out how Oklahoma men's and women's team and area high schools fared.

Sports/1B



Excitement by the nose

Hilldale High School's all-school musical, "Pinocchio," starts today.

Weekend/Special pull-out section

Muskogee Daily

and Times-Democrat

PHOENIX



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Porter teen to be tried as an adult

Judge: This is one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make

What's next

Daniel Harley Dillingham will be back in Wagoner County District Court at 1:30 p.m. April 5 for arraignment. At that time, a date will be set for a felony jury trial.

By Elizabeth Ridenour
Phoenix Staff Writer

WAGONER — A 15-year-old Porter boy charged with murdering a classmate will be tried as an adult, a judge ruled Thursday.

Daniel Harley Dillingham is charged with first-degree murder for allegedly stabbing to death Carl Andrew "Andy" Robinson, 16, on Dec. 8 while both were riding on a Porter Consolidated Schools bus.

Associate District Judge Darrell Shepherd announced his decision at the conclusion of a two-day reverse certification hearing to determine at what level Dillingham should be tried. "This has been one of the

most difficult decisions I've had to make in my 10 years on the bench," he began. Shepherd then listed the things he was required to consider in making his decision. The most troubling criteria he listed were the

prospects of adequate protection for the public if Dillingham was processed through the juvenile or youthful offender systems, which could only hold him in



Dillingham

(See DA, 2A)

Terrorist bombs kill more than 190 in Spain

al-Qaida claims responsibility

MADRID, Spain (AP) — 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 1,200. Spain 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 commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid.

Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic 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.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

It was also 2 1/2 years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, and was Europe's worst since the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and detonated three other bombs.

"An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, repulsion and anger," King Juan Car-



Family members cry at a temporary morgue where victims were taken in Madrid on Thursday.

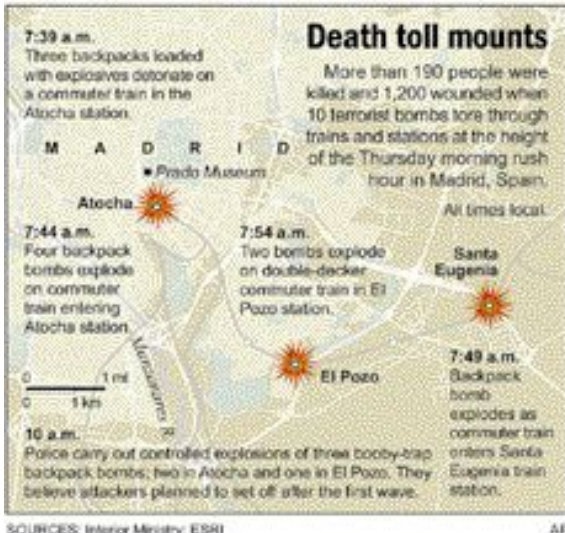


Police carry the bodies out of a passenger train Thursday after a number of bombs rocked railway stations in Madrid.

los of Spain said on national television.

Worst hit was a double-decker train at El Pozo station, where two bombs killed 70 people, fire department inspector Juan Redondo said. One corpse was blown onto the roof.

At the Santa Eugenia station, "there was one carriage totally blown apart. People were scattered all over the platforms. I saw legs and arms. I won't forget this ever. I've seen horror," said Enrique Sanchez, an ambulance worker.



Eufaula Lake residents ready for water fight

Oklahoma cities want 68M gallons a day

By Marissa Fajt
Phoenix Staff Writer

EUFULA — A contract approved by a state board would allow 68 million gallons of water a day to be pumped out of Eufaula Lake, and residents fear the move could drop the lake level and hurt their economy.

"I sold everything I had and invested it right here," said George Wright, a lake resident who moved from Oklahoma City. "My property will be absolutely worthless."

The Lake Eufaula Association Inc., along with several others from around the lake met Thursday night for the association's board meeting at Expressions Unlimited in Eufaula. Much of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion of a permit the Oklahoma Water Resources Board issued last

September.

The permit will allow Rural Development Foundation, a nonprofit group, to remove 76,730 acre feet of water per year, which is about 68 million gallons per day, said Brian Vance, public information officer for the state board, in a phone interview. Vance said the permit allows the water to be used for municipal and rural purposes.

Residents said they were shocked to find out the water board had permitted the use of such large amount of water without notifying them ahead of time. The Eufaula association plans to circulate a letter objecting to the removal.

Vance said there were no protests at the water board's meeting in September, and the board questioned the foundation

(See OFFICIAL, 2A)

Special police team out of operation as chief investigates

By Donna Hales
Phoenix Staff Writer

Police Chief Rex Eskridge took his Special Operations Team out of operation this week pending an investigation into incidents at the firing range south of town.

Allegations include recklessly firing a weapon, damage to city property and threatening another police officer.

Some members of the team stayed after target training last week to bid farewell to Capt. Alan Mitchell, a longtime trainer and former team commander who was retiring after more than 20 years on the force.

Eskridge returned from vacation this week to a report that Mitchell allegedly fired an automatic handgun, an MP-5, into the air in a direction other than aimed at berms behind the targets on the range.

Mitchell also allegedly backed a police vehicle in-

Inside/3A

A Muskogee Police captain is on suspension without pay until Tuesday for improper use of a firearm.

Special operations

The Muskogee Police Special Operations Team is called out in hostage and barricade situations and during drug raids when suspects are believed to be armed and dangerous. The team has special training, and other agencies have requested the team's assistance, Muskogee Police Chief Rex Eskridge said.

to a fence, causing several hundred dollars in damage, and may have threatened to hit a fellow officer he didn't like, Eskridge said.

The incidents are under investigation. "If some of these allegations are true, then we're going to deal with it in a very stern way," Eskridge

(See CHIEF, 2A)

House keeps workers' compensation issue alive

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Republican-led effort to reduce workers' compensation system costs was kept alive by House action Thursday.

Lawmakers voted 95-1 for a bill by Rep. Ron Peterson, R-Broken Arrow, that targets attorney fees and seeks to reduce some claims.

A similar bill by Sen. Scott Pruitt, another Broken Arrow Republican, died in the Senate when it did not get a committee hearing.

Pruitt joined Peterson at a news conference after the House passed House Bill 2619 without debate.

"The House's passage of these landmark reforms gives hope to state employers that help is on the way, and is the first step in helping the job flight from Oklahoma we have seen in recent years," Pruitt said.

Pruitt urged Democratic Gov. Brad Henry and Senate President Pro Tem Cal Hobson, D-Lexington, to support the changes



and not "protect their trial-lawyer allies."

Supporters say the changes proposed by Peterson and Pruitt will save Oklahoma employers \$100 million a year in work comp costs.

Members of the state

trial lawyers group have condemned some of the proposed changes, including requiring "objective" evidence based on medical testing in so-called soft tissue cases. These often hard-to-prove cases sometimes involve muscle pulls and back strains.

Medical science cannot yet detect all legitimate injuries through tests, opponents of the changes say.

John Harlan, a member of Lawyers for Working Oklahomans, said the bill

would reduce fees to the point that no attorney could work on work comp cases.

Under the bill, lawyers would only get paid on the amount of money they obtain for their clients that is over the settlement amount offered by employers.

The measure also seeks to eliminate so-called "dueling doctors" by requiring that the treating physician be given deference in the rating process for work claims.



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