

Heavy hitters

Resurgent rock champion Metallica brings the noise to the Rose Garden



Join the green party

Avoid those guys in plastic bowlers and your St. Patrick's Day partying will be in top shape. **Living, B1**

FRIDAY

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Job gains hint at end to Oregon recession

A state report says the number of unemployed dropped as laid-off workers rally against outsourcing

By GAIL KINSEY HILL
THE OREGONIAN

A strong statewide jobs report released Thursday prompted state officials to declare that Oregon's tenacious recession is "likely over."

But a group of laid-off workers gathered in North Portland to decry the outsourcing of jobs to overseas operations and a desolate job market insisted local businesses aren't hiring and the economy isn't improving.

INSIDE

Business: Four Portland-area steel fabricators will bring as many as 300 more jobs to the area if they can lock in a contract to build part of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. **C1**

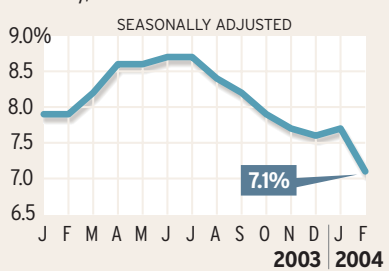
cautioned Amy Vander Vliet, a regional economist with the Oregon Employment Department's Portland office.

Even so, given the gradual job gains of the last six to nine months, "the recession is likely over," she said.

The February unemployment rate Please see **JOBS**, Page A15

UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS

Oregon's jobless rate fell to 7.1 percent in February, a 29-month low.



TED MITCHNER/THE OREGONIAN

California halts gay marriages

Legislators in Massachusetts give preliminary approval to a ban on same-sex marriages

By DAVID KRAVETS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex marriages in San Francisco on Thursday as

Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex 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 same-sex couples have tied the knot in the past month.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be de-

nied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the capital to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip same-sex couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow Please see **MARRIAGE**, Page A16

ARE THEY VALID?

In California, the Supreme Court did not rule on the legality of the same-sex marriages that occurred in San Francisco; it simply ordered an immediate halt to them. The justices have indicated they would decide in the coming months whether the city had the authority to allow the marriages.

In Massachusetts, legally sanctioned gay marriages won't begin until May 17. Lawmakers Thursday gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages and allow civil unions but it still must weather several more votes.

"March 11, 2004, now occupies a place in the history of infamy."

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER JOSE MARIA AZNAR

Spain seeks terror suspects

At least 192 die in Madrid, and suspicions turn to Basque and Islamic groups



PETER DEJONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By KEITH B. RICHBURG
LA TIMES-WASHINGTON POST SERVICE

MADRID, Spain — Ten near-simultaneous explosions tore through four packed commuter trains in Madrid during rush hour Thursday morning, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the worst terrorist attack in modern Spanish history, just three days before national elections.

The explosives were placed in backpacks and left aboard trains and on tracks at three stations. Witnesses describing the scenes of chaos and carnage said they heard multiple explosions at the city's busy Atocha station, which sent passengers scrambling in a near-stampede.

A makeshift emergency hospital was set up alongside the tracks at the station, just south of the Prado Museum. Buses were hurriedly converted into ambulances. The walking

wounded were asked to make it to hospitals on their own, to leave vehicles available for the more severely injured.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar called the attacks "a mass murder" and compared them to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist strikes in the United States. "March 11, 2004, now occupies a place in the history of infamy," he said.

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.

Later Thursday, however, the Spanish interior minister, Angel Acebes, said the government was investigating a possible link to Islamic extremists after a van was discovered on the outskirts of Madrid carrying seven detonator caps and a cassette tape in Arabic containing verses from the Quran. The van was parked Please see **SPAIN**, Page A7



ABOVE: Rescue workers collect bodies after rush-hour explosions at Atocha train station Thursday in Madrid, Spain.

LEFT: Firefighters carry bodies from the wreckage.

PAUL WHITE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State high court curbs arrests during protests

The court rules that police may not arrest protesters for disobeying an order to disperse

By NOELLE CROMBIE
THE OREGONIAN

The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday struck down part of a law that allowed police to arrest protesters for failing to obey an order to disperse, saying it violates constitutional rights to free speech and assembly.

The court overturned a section of the state's disorderly conduct statute that empowered police to disperse demonstrators if officers thought the gathering posed an inconvenience or annoyance to the public. Those who didn't comply with the police order had been subject to arrest.

In its opinion, the court said demonstrators may intend to annoy or inconvenience the public.

"In fact, individuals often undertake the exercise of protected rights such as assembly or expression with the intent of causing public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to those, such as gov-

Please see **COURT**, Page A15

Former DeFazio, Wyden employee accused of spying



LINDAUER

Federal authorities arrest the one-time press secretary on charges that she worked for Saddam Hussein's regime

By JEFF KOSSEFF and JIM BARNETT
THE OREGONIAN

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities on Thursday arrested a former press secretary to two Oregon congressmen on charges that she

worked for the deposed regime of Saddam Hussein.

The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday accused Susan Lindauer, 40, of illegally acting as an agent of Iraq's intelligence agency from October 1999 through February 2004. The U.S. government accused her of receiving more than \$10,000 in compensation from the Iraqi agency.

Lindauer, of Takoma Park, Md., worked for two Oregon Democrats — Rep. Peter DeFazio

in 1993 and then-Rep. Ron Wyden in 1994 — in addition to other jobs in politics and journalism. She is a distant relative of White House chief of staff Andrew Card and the daughter of John Lindauer, the unsuccessful Republican candidate for Alaska governor in 1998.

Lindauer faces 11 separate charges, including a foreign government, engaging in illegal financial transactions with a foreign govern-

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Open meetings

Under a 1973 law, no longer could a majority of any public body in Oregon meet in secret to decide the public's business. **A12**

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WEATHER

Shows, clouds and sun High: **58** Low: **38** For complete weather, see **Living, B8**

