

71° | 60°
Rain: 20%
B10

LIVE MUSIC HARD ROCK LATIN ROCK
PUNK HIPHOP BLUES ALT ROCK TEXAS
COUNTRY CLASSICAL HARD ROCK LATIN ROCK
CHRISTIAN HARD ROCK
CORE PUNK HIPHOP IN WEEKEND

Islanders ink deal with new arena **D1**

Stewart's potential jail cell **B6**



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Friday, March 12, 2004 • City edition

Spring break construction congestion

Map of the hotspots **Below**



Tim Zielenbach/Caller-Times

Jose Presa carries a roll of netting Thursday afternoon on Staples Street near Moore Plaza. The plastic strengthens the lower limestone layer in road building.

Repairs will pinch beach traffic

Expect drives to island to be an hour longer during weekend

BY MATTHEW STURDEVANT
Caller-Times

As the first wave of people arrive for spring break today, they will enter what one study deemed "the most drivable city in the nation." But it may not seem like it.

With construction slowing traffic on major access roads from Corpus Christi to the beach, congestion may cause delays in pockets throughout the city.

"This is the highest amount of construction we've had in 14 years," said Angel Escobar, director of engineering services for the city of Corpus Christi.

There is major construction going on at both routes from Corpus Christi to the beach — the John F. Kennedy Causeway and the Harbor Bridge. The

Harbor Bridge work will continue for another two years and the causeway will be finished this fall, Escobar said.

And when a study last month by the U.S. Census Bureau American Community said Corpus Christi's average commute of 21.3 minutes was ranked 48th among U.S. cities, spring break traffic was not considered.

The Texas Department of Transportation anticipates spring break traffic and the array of construction projects will put an additional delay of 20 minutes to an hour each weekend day throughout March. The longest delays for drivers are expected this weekend with an extra 40 minutes today and an extra hour Saturday and Sunday, according to the transportation department.

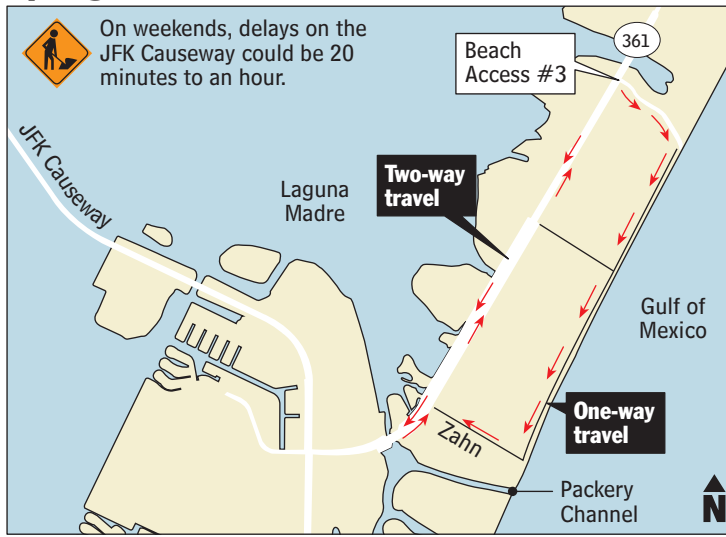
Those delays primarily will be in places where construction workers are hammering away at heavy traffic arteries.

"The causeway is the big one, it always gets congested this time of year," said Cliff Bost, a transportation department spokesman.

On Thursday the causeway was changed for the weekend to allow two

Please see **TRAFFIC/A6**

Spring Break traffic



Area roadwork projects

- 1 SPID & Crosstown July 2001 - Fall 2005
- 2 JFK Causeway Feb. 2002 - Fall 2004
- 3 Shoreline/seawall July 2002 - April 2006
- 4 Harbor Bridge Aug. 2002 - 2006
- 5 Ennis Joslin June 2000 - Fall 2004
- 6 S. Staples from Williams to SPID Feb. 2004 - May 2004

Sources: City of Corpus Christi; Texas Department of Transportation

Madrid train bombs kill 192

Ten explosions injure 1,400 during rush hour

BY MAR ROMAN
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-Qaeda for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour 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 that is seeking greater

On A7

- Who did it? Al-Qaeda group claims bombings.
- Bush stands by Spanish prime minister.

Please see **BOMBINGS/A7**

Ex-congressional aide accused of contacts within Iraqi intelligence

BY RICHARD W. STEVENSON
AND ERIC LICHTBLAU
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors charged a former congressional aide on Thursday with working with the Iraqi intelligence service before the war. Investigators said she had tried to influence U.S. policy toward Iraq by presenting herself as an intermediary to a highly placed relative, Andrew H. Card Jr., the White House chief of staff.

The woman, Susan P. Lindauer, 40, was arrested Thursday morning by federal agents at her home in Takoma Park, Md., outside Washington. In New York, federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment that said she had met repeatedly with representatives of the Iraqi intelligence service starting in 1999 and that she had traveled to Baghdad in 2002 for meetings with Iraqi

Please see **SPY CHARGE/A6**

Immunizations will be brought to kids

Free immunizations

One Care Van will provide free immunizations during the Nueces County Medical Society's annual health fair.

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 27
Where: Bayfront Plaza Convention Center

En Español

Inmunizaciones gratis

One Care Van va a ofrecer inmunizaciones gratis durante una convención de salud apoyado por el Nueces County Medical Society.

¿Cuándo?: 9 a.m. hasta 3 p.m., 27 de Marzo
¿A dónde?: Bayfront Plaza Convention Center

Mobile clinics to reach more who still need their shots

BY BETH CROSS
Caller-Times

State and local health organizations are planning to bring immunizations to area schools beginning this month to target students who still have not received some shots, many of whom only need their second dose of the Hepatitis A vaccine.

In Corpus Christi Independent School District, 6,090 students

need Hepatitis A shots, though Melinda Gonzales, interim coordinator for student health services, said the majority of those students already have received their first dose of the vaccine. Hepatitis A shots are given six months apart.

"The second dose of Hepatitis A is due for many of our students, and it varies because they all received their first ones at different times," Gonzales said.

The number of children needing other vaccines has decreased, she said, and few, if any, students are being kept home from school.

CCISD is in the planning stages with the Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health District to bring mobile immunization teams to select campuses, possibly next month. No schedule

Please see **IMMUNIZATION/A6**

Also see **How many need shotsA6**

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today's INDEX

SECTIONS

- News.....A
- Local.....B
- Classified.....C
- Sports.....D

CONTENT

- Bridge.....A13
- Business.....B6
- Calendar.....B2
- Channel 6 forecast.....B10
- Comics.....D8-9

- Crosswords.....D8-9
- Dear Abby.....D9
- Deaths.....B5
- Editorials.....A14
- Funerals.....B5
- Horoscope.....A13

- Jumble.....D8
- Markets.....B7-8
- Movies.....A13
- Texas.....A12, A16, B4
- TV.....A13
- Viewpoints.....A15

