MARCH MADNESS SPECIAL SECTION | TCU's season comes to an end; Oklahoma slips past Nebraska. 1DD

Star-Telegram

W W W . S T A R - T E L E G R A M . C O M

'Where The West Begins'

Friday, March 12, 2004 50 cents

Today's News

NATIONAL

House OKs higher fines for broadcast indecency

Lawmakers overwhelmingly approve a measure to increase the maximum fine for a broadcast-license holder to \$500,000 from \$27,500. The penalty for a performer would rise to \$500,000 from \$11,000. Story on 6A

* * *

Woman is accused of being agent for Iraq

A distant cousin of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card is charged with working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service. Card turned her in to the FBI for contacting him in the weeks before the Iraqi war, allegedly on behalf of Saddam Hussein's regime. Story on 3A

BUSINESS

New programs offer help to home buyers

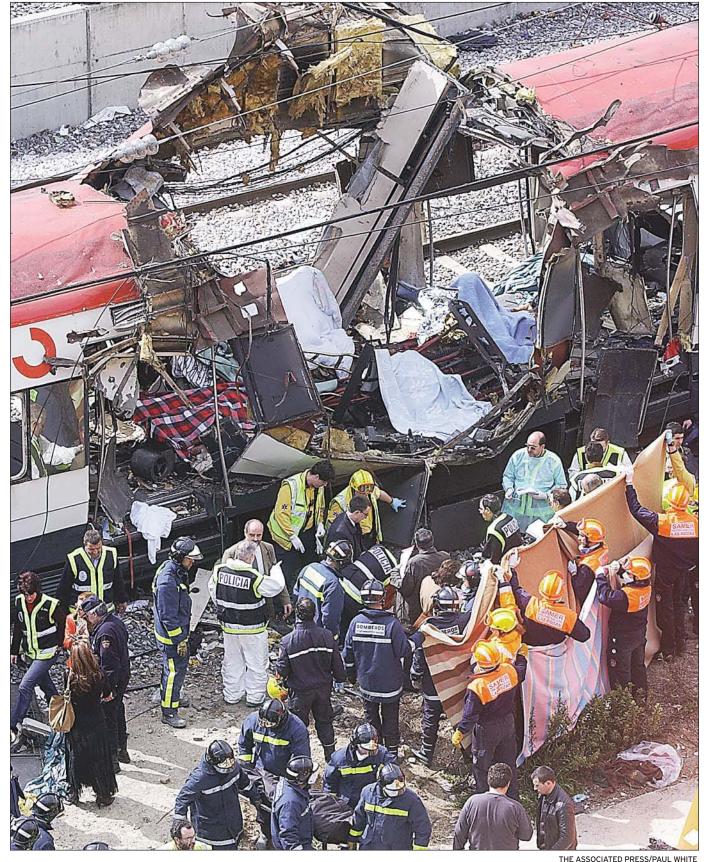
Banks and mortgage companies have a bundle of new programs for low- and moderateincome home buyers. The programs are helping people address the three biggest obstacles to owning a house — down payments, closing costs and credit histories. Story on 1C

INTERNATIONAL

South Korea parliament impeaches president

AT LEAST 192 KILLED AS 10 BOMBS SHATTER MADRID COMMUTER TRAINS

'This is mass murder'



Coordinated attacks injure about 1,400

By TRACY WILKINSON LOS ANGELES TIMES

MADRID, Spain — In the most devastating terrorist attack in Spanish history, 10 bombs that detonated minutes apart ripped through crowded commuter trains at three Madrid stations early Thursday, killing at least 192 people, wounding about 1,400 and sending this capital into convulsions of shock and horror three days before a national election.

Authorities immediately blamed the Basque separatist group ETA for the deadliest wave of terrorism seen in Europe in almost two decades. But the scale of carnage went far beyond anything the separatists had ever carried out and led to speculation that other groups might be responsible.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes initially said it was "absolutely clear" that ETA was responsible. Late Thursday, however, he went before reporters to say that police had recovered a stolen van with seven bomb detonators and a tape recording of verses from the Quran read in Arabic. The van was found in a More on BLASTS on 25A

Parliament impeaches President Roh Moo Hyun on charges of illegal electioneering and incompetence today, stripping him of his constitutional powers in an unprecedented vote that followed hours of scuffles and protests. Story on 12A

Coming Sunday



SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/TINA FINEBERG

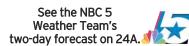
It's a show dog's life

It was a long way from Stephenville to the Westminster Kennel Club, but Indy remained unfazed by the bright lights. Now, he's looking to win over the home crowd.

In Sunday Life

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Firefighters carry a body from a commuter train that was ripped apart in a bomb attack Thursday in Madrid, Spain. Although Spanish authorities initially blamed Basque separatists, the scale of the coordinated attacks has cast suspicion on Islamic extremists.

Conflicting clues implicate **Basque and Islamic terrorists**

By DON VAN NATTA and TIM GOLDEN THE NEW YORK TIMES

The flood of conflicting evidence and clues that emerged from the carnage of the bombings in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday pointed in two very different directions, leaving counterterrorism officials in a country painfully familiar with terrorist violence struggling to identify a culprit.

Just hours after the bombings, which struck during the morning rush hour, the Spanish authorities blamed the Basque separatist group known as ETA. Hours later, the same officials announced the discovery of new evidence that they said left open the possibility that Islamic militants had been involved.

"Could it have been Islamic More on INQUIRY on 20A



Medicare cost figures

withheld, analyst says

Inside

Commuters describe the scene of carnage

The Atocha train station became a zone of horrific destruction when the first explosions tore into two trains. 23A

Separatist group has lost support in recent years

ETA has been fighting for freedom from Spain since the 1960s in an unrelenting campaign of bombings, kidnappings and assassinations. 23A

> 1 7:39 a.m. Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station **2** 7:44 a.m. Four backpack bombs explode on a commuter train entering Atocha station. 3 7:49 a.m. A backpack bomb explodes as a commuter train enters the Santa Eugenia station. **4** 7:54 a.m. Two bombs explode on a doubledecker commuter train in El Pozo station. Note: All times loca

SOURCES: Interior Ministry; ESRI

Microwave popcorn draws EPA scrutiny

By CONNIE FARROW THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Environmental Protection Agency is studying the chemicals released into the air when a bag of microwave popcorn is popped or opened.

Exposure to vapors from butter flavoring in microwave popcorn has been linked to a rare lung disease contracted by factory workers in Missouri, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. The National Institute for Occupational Safety

Exposure to FOOD chemicals in the popcorn's flavoring has been linked to lung disease in factory workers, but health officials say consumers aren't in danger.

and Health has said it suspects the chemical diacetyl caused the illnesses.

However, health officials insist that people who microwave popcorn and eat it at home are not in danger. More on FOOD on 15A



Thomas Scully, who was deeply involved in the effort to pass the drug benefit, denies that he threatened to fire an expert on Medicare costs.

of the White House-backed Medicare prescription drug plan. When the House passed the benefit by five votes in November, the White House was embracing an estimate by the

By TONY PUGH

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

ernment's top expert on

Medicare costs said that he 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

WASHINGTON — The gov-

ESTIMATES A government expert says he was told that he would be fired if he shared higher cost projections with lawmakers before they voted on the prescription drug plan.

Congressional Budget Office that it would cost \$395 billion in the first 10 years. But for months, the administration's analysts in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had concluded repeatedly that the drug benefit More on ESTIMATES on 15A