

F O R T W O R T H
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'Where The West Begins'

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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 moderate-income 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

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 FINBERG

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

WEATHER



Today
 Mostly cloudy and cool, with light rain later in the day.
 High, 58. Low, 50.

See the NBC 5 Weather Team's two-day forecast on 24A.

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QUICK READ

To help you quickly navigate the Star-Telegram, look for summaries with our longer stories. Each summary begins with a topic label in white type on a black bar.



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AT LEAST 192 KILLED AS 10 BOMBS SHATTER MADRID COMMUTER TRAINS

'This is mass murder'



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.

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

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

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

A calculated attack



SOURCES: Interior Ministry; ESRI
 STAR-TELEGRAM/AP

- 7:39 a.m. Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station.
 - 7:44 a.m. Four backpack bombs explode on a commuter train entering Atocha station.
 - 7:49 a.m. A backpack bomb explodes as a commuter train enters the Santa Eugenia station.
 - 7:54 a.m. Two bombs explode on a double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station.
- Note: All times local

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

FOOD Exposure to 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.

Medicare cost figures withheld, analyst says

By TONY PUGH
 KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The government'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 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

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