

# Tobin birthday gift: \$5 million to McNay Art Museum / 1B

## Wild ride resumes for UTSA men

SPORTS/1C



# FRIDAY

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## Beyoncé, Alicia and Missy

WEEKENDER



# San Antonio Express-News

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## Perry seeks to put lid on taxes

Governor favors having voters decide on certain property-levy boosts.

By PEGGY FIKAC

CHIEF, EXPRESS-NEWS AUSTIN BUREAU

Gov. Rick Perry said Thursday he wants to empower Texans by reining in local property taxes, but cities and counties said limiting their money-raising ability could hamper services including public safety. "Under my plan, if local governments want to raise property tax revenue beyond what it costs to keep up with growth and inflation, they will have to take an important new step: Convince the voters," said Perry, whose plan would also limit appraisal increases to 3 percent annually. "Voters, not government, will be in the driver's seat."

The Texas Municipal League's Frank Sturzl countered with a road-way analogy of his own in responding to the plan, which Perry offered as an element of an as-yet undetermined school finance overhaul.

"We applaud lawmakers who are working on the school problem, but we don't want Texas cities to be a victim of a hit-and-run accident with a school bus in seeking a solution," Sturzl said. "Cities don't want a blank check on taxes. They want to be able to meet the challenges of growth and services in a fiscally

See PERRY/8A

## UTSA's growth set to explode

By 2030, local campus will have to absorb thousands.

By MATT FLORES

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN — The University of Texas at San Antonio — one of the newest and fastest-growing colleges in the state — could become one of its largest over the next quarter-century.

Officials predict UTSA's enrollment of 25,000 students will grow to at least 43,000 by 2030. That would bring it close in size to big sister UT-Austin, whose 50,000 students make it the country's largest campus, and on par with the Texas A&M system's College Station campus, which has 44,000 students.

State demographers for years have predicted that the highest concentration of growth over the next decades will be in urban areas and along the Texas-Mexico border.

UTSA, which has grown by 6,000 students in three years, already has exceeded its 2005 growth projection by more than 1,000 students.

"This highlights the importance

See UTSA/8A

## DEATH RIDES THE RAILS: SERIES OF BLASTS RIPS TRAINS

# 3-11 is Spain's 9-11



PABLO TORRES GUERRERO/EL PAIS/REUTERS

Rescue workers attend victims on the tracks at Madrid's Atocha station after a series of deadly explosions. There were 10 closely timed blasts.

The relative of a victim reacts on leaving a hospital where victims of Spanish blasts were treated. Hundreds were injured by nearly simultaneous explosions on three trains in Madrid at the height of morning commuter traffic.



PEDRO ARMESTRE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD  
KNIGHT RIDDER

MADRID, Spain — More than 190 people were killed and at least another 1,400 injured when a series of terror bombs ripped through trains during the capital's morning rush hour Thursday.

It was the bloodiest such attack in this nation's history.

Government officials quickly blamed the bombings, three days before national elections, on the Basque separatist group ETA, which has waged a bloody 40-year campaign for independence.

However, a letter to an Arabic-language newspaper in London later claimed the attacks were carried out by al-Qaida, but provided no evidence.

The letter said the attacks were "a way to settle old accounts with Spain, crusader and ally of America in its war against Islam."

The letter was delivered to the news-

- Are old or new enemies at the gates?/10A
- Scenes of horror stun Spanish/11A

paper Al Quds Al Arabi. It was signed by the Abu Hafs al Masri Brigades, the same group that claimed responsibility last year for the November bombings of two synagogues in Turkey and the August bombing of a Marriott hotel in Indonesia.

The group, which is linked to al-Qaida, has falsely claimed responsibility for other attacks, and some intelligence officials think it exists in name only.

Later Thursday, 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

See SERIES/11A

## Half-million-dollar indecency fine OK'd

House passes bill in wake of Jackson's halftime flash.

By JONATHAN D. SALANT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Spurred by public outrage over the Super Bowl halftime show, the House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to dramatically increase fines for broadcast indecency.

While definitions vary widely on just where indecency begins, House members clearly agreed the best way to combat

over-the-edge TV and radio programming is to hit companies and personalities in the wallet. Hard.

Under the legislation, approved 391-22, broadcast companies and entertainers could be fined up to \$500,000 per incident, a huge jump from the current \$27,500 for license-holders and \$11,000 for personalities.

The Federal Communications Commission has received more than a half-million complaints about the halftime show, which included provocative dancing and sexually explicit lyrics along with the

See HOUSE/8A

## Indecency bill

Highlights of broadcast indecency bill approved by House

- Raises maximum fine to \$500,000
- Lets FCC impose penalty on performer after first offense
- Requires FCC to act on indecency complaints within 180 days
- Broadcaster's license may be revoked after three indecency violations
- Exempts affiliates from fines if - Affiliate had no chance to review program supplied by network
- Affiliate had no reason to suspect a live broadcast could be indecent.
- Texas representatives voted 28-2 for the measure
- Voting against: Reps. Ron Paul, R-Surfside, and Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston.
- Not voting: Reps. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, and Chris Bell, D-Houston.

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

## Gay marriages take hits on two coasts

California high court and Massachusetts legislators act.

By BOB KEEFE  
COX

Gay marriage advocates suffered a double-barreled setback Thursday, as states on either side of the country moved to prohibit same-sex weddings.

The California Supreme Court unanimously ordered the city of San Francisco to immediately stop issuing marriage licenses to gay couples,

and in Massachusetts, the legislature gave preliminary approval to a state constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages but allow civil unions.

The ruling in California came a month almost to the day that San Francisco set off a national debate by allowing such unions. The court said the city was violating state laws that declare a marriage is between a man and woman.

Opponents of gay marriage hailed the actions as a major victory, and said it was more proof the country as a whole

See GAY MARRIAGE/8A

Today's Weather  
Cloudy, rain  
High 63, Low 54  
Full report, Page 12C

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