

GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

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DON'T MISS THIS ...



Spring break brings service, or fun in the sun
► B-1

IRS audits rise for high-income taxpayers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS increased its audits of individuals and couples making more than \$100,000 last year, but even high-income taxpayers faced low odds of being called upon to document their expenses and deductions.

Audits of taxpayers who earned \$100,000 or more increased 24 percent between 2002 and 2003 as the IRS searched for unpaid taxes. Most of the increased activity centered on individuals or couples earning \$250,000 or more.

Despite the stepped-up effort, the IRS audited only one in 95 tax returns filed by high-income taxpayers.

"If you look at overall audit rates, they're still too low," IRS Commissioner Mark Everson said Thursday, adding that the statistics nevertheless show the agency arrested the decline that began in 1998, when Congress ordered the IRS to shift its focus from enforcement to taxpayer service.

Individuals at all income levels faced slightly higher chances of an audit last year. Overall, the IRS examined 1 in 153 returns last year, compared with 1 in 174 the previous year. The audit rate still lags from the rates in the mid-1990s when the agency looked at about 1 in 60 individual returns.

The statistics come as millions of Americans hurry to prepare their tax returns before the April 15 filing deadline.

In an effort to best use its money and manpower, the IRS has focused its search for unpaid taxes on high-income individuals, corporations and income hidden in offshore accounts. The IRS last year reaped \$35.5 billion through collection efforts last year, the most in a decade.

WEATHER

High **31**
Low **15**

► Storm Team 5
► Forecast, B-5
► Forecast update every 30 minutes at www.greenbaypressgazette.com

Terrorists strike in Madrid Train bombs kill dozens

Group says al-Qaida responsible for attacks

The Associated Press

► Dazed passengers fled in all directions, A-4

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 first blamed Basque separatists, but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after the first three bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Seven more bombings followed on other trains.

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 Interior Ministry said 192 people were killed and 1,421 injured.

Who carried out the highly coordinated attack was a mystery. The government put the Basque separatist group ETA at the top of its list of suspects, although a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida.

The Arabic newspaper Al-Quds al-Arabi said it had received a claim of responsibility issued in the name of al-Qaida. The e-mail claim, signed by the Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, was received at the newspaper's London offices and said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."



ABOVE: Rescue workers line up victims of a train bombing Thursday morning in Madrid. The Spanish government said 192 people were killed. **LEFT:** Paramedics tend to a man injured by one of the 10 bombs that exploded on four different trains.

Photos by The Associated Press

One of four commuter train cars blown apart by backpack bombs lies on a track Thursday in Madrid.



Buyer comes forward for troubled day care

Bellevue woman will purchase End of the Rainbow

BY JOSE DE JESUS
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The owners of a Green Bay day care in trouble

with the state for alleged poor child-care practices will sell their business to a Bellevue woman, the prospective buyer said Thursday.

Pauline Stone, owner of Growing Time Child Care in Bellevue and De Pere, said she will take over the

End of the Rainbow Preschool and Day Care, 220 Alvina St. on the city's west side, on Wednesday.

"I like the area because it reminds me of a small community-type center," Stone said.

End of the Rainbow has been on the hot seat since

November after an employee took off for the night and left a 1-year-old sleeping in a crib. Police found the boy unharmed within about 45 minutes after family members came for the child and found the business locked. The operation, which

will be called Growing Time Child Care-West, would be licensed for 50 children ages 4 weeks to 12 years, Stone said.

Although Stone didn't say how much she's buying the property for, a Brown County land records search shows the proper-

ty's assessed value at \$126,200.

Stephen and Candy Pfeiffer, owners of End of the Rainbow, would not comment Thursday.

The state revoked the day care's license shortly

► See Day care, A-4

Job losses strain centers' resources

BY LEE REINSCH
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At 17, Megan Haislip of Green Bay got pregnant. Two years later, the young mother lost her waitressing job and went to the Wisconsin Job Center for support.



Haislip

There she has hunted for work, received government assistance with food and rent and searched for a path in life. "It was the first place I thought of," Haislip said. "It's very helpful and a very good place for single

mothers. I'd be in really bad shape without this place." Haislip is among the hundreds who each week walk into the Wisconsin

Job Center's doors at 325 N. Roosevelt St., Green Bay, according to Jim Golembeski, executive director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board. He ad-



John Gosling, left, career counselor with the Wisconsin Job Service, reviews a job application completed by Robert Powers on Thursday. B.A. Rupert/Press-Gazette

ministers 10 centers in 10 counties.

But because of reduced funding to agencies within the Job Center, it has had to cut services, hours and staff.

The Job Center does not have its own budget. It relies on the voluntary participation of the 15 or so agencies that make it up.

"Each of them experiences budget fluctuations from year to year, sometimes up, sometimes down. Mostly down," said Golembeski.

This year, changes in the way Wisconsin Works welfare-to-work funds are distributed to the Green

► See Centers, A-4

Congress wants to delay missions to Mars, moon

Money could become available next year

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Congress on Thursday grounded NASA's high hopes for President Bush's request for a major financial investment in his plan to send humans to the moon and Mars.

At a Senate hearing, lawmakers warned there isn't enough money this year.

"You have the bad luck of asking for more money for a new program in a time of severe budget constraints," said Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., chairman of

► No more shuttle flights to Hubble, NASA says, A-5

the Senate Appropriations subcommittee with oversight over the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's budget.

"I am concerned that this new vision will become the next space station, consuming resources as costs begin to rise," Bond said. "One could question if now is the time to begin the full implementation, or if it would be more prudent to wait a year and let NASA decide what is needed to accomplish the goals set out by the president."

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