

GOOD MORNING
 TODAY'S TOP NEWS

SPORTS SHOW



It's opening day

The Journal Sentinel Sports Show opens today, and expanded coverage includes a feature on a new state organization that helps hunters who have disabilities hit the great outdoors, a tribute to the man who led the fight against chronic wasting disease, a roundup of seminar speakers, and more.

Expanded coverage in Sports Schedule today, 9C

State Senate poised to pass ban on gay marriage

Massachusetts moves on similar amendment; California unions halted

By **STACY FORSTER**
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Madison — As the Wisconsin Senate was poised late Thursday to pass a proposed constitutional amendment to

define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, tremors from the continually shifting national debate on gay marriage were felt in California and Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, the state that kicked off the furor, lawmakers gave preliminary approval Thursday to a similar constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages but allow civil unions.

The California Supreme Court, meanwhile, ordered an immediate halt to the same-sex unions being performed in San Francisco in violation of state law, but did not weigh in on their legality.

In Wisconsin's Capitol, a day after setting aside the matter because of delays, lawmakers started their debate and braced for a long session.

Majority Leader Mary Panzer (R-West Bend) has said there would be no time limits imposed on the debate.

Shifts on the national front should force Wisconsin legislators to act now, said Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau), author of the measure. It would be irresponsible to stay out of the fray and let courts in another state legalize gay

marriages that Wisconsin might then have to recognize, he said.

"We could stick our heads in the sand and pretend it's not raging outside this building, but we can't," Fitzgerald said, in a floor speech that

Please see **DEBATE, 10A**

■ **Rent-to-own:** Assembly kills bill allowing stores across state. **3B**

Terror bombs kill 192 on trains in Madrid



Rescue workers remove victims at Atocha train station following a blast there, after a number of bombs rocked three railway stations in Madrid, Spain, Thursday. The bombings came just three days before the nation's general elections and killed more than 190 people.

Attacks at 3 stations worst in modern Spanish history

New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press

Madrid, Spain — Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the worst terrorist attack in modern Spanish history.

The attacks came just three days before national elections.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a stolen van with detonators and tape of verses from the Qur'an near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to the al-Qaida terrorist net-

work took responsibility in a letter delivered to an Arab newspaper. But an American counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden last October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in

Please see **SPAIN, 15A**

11th state soldier loses life in Iraq

Army reservist was pen pal to 6th-graders

By **MEG JONES**
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A 23-year-old Army reservist from rural western Wisconsin who wrote to sixth-graders about his experience serving in Iraq was killed when his convoy was ambushed in a roadside bombing, authorities said Thursday.

Spc. Bert E. Hoyer, who was studying wildlife management before his unit was called to active duty, died Wednesday in the explosion in Baqubah, north of Baghdad. He was the 11th soldier from Wisconsin and the fourth person from the 652nd Engineer Co. to die in Iraq.

Shortly after two military officers visited Hoyer's family Wednesday, word spread throughout the small community of Ellsworth, and flags were lowered.

Hoyer was a 1999 graduate of Ellsworth High School. He enlisted in the Army Reserves while he was a student at Vermillion Community College in Ely, Minn., said his mother, Peggy.

"He was very outgoing, and he went into it knowing this could happen, that he could go to war," Peggy Hoyer said in a phone interview Thursday evening.

Hoyer shipped out to Iraq in April. That's the last time Peggy Hoyer saw her oldest son.

"He was a preemie. He was two months early," she said. "He ended up being 6 feet 4 with a size-16 shoe."

Unit built bridges, roads

About 180 members of the Ellsworth-based 652nd, which includes a detachment from Michigan, stayed at Ellsworth

Please see **SOLDIER, 14A**

■ **Spy charge:** Bush aide's kin is accused of working for Iraq. **12A**

■ **Killings:** Iraqi police involvement feared in coalition staff deaths. **14A**

INSIDE

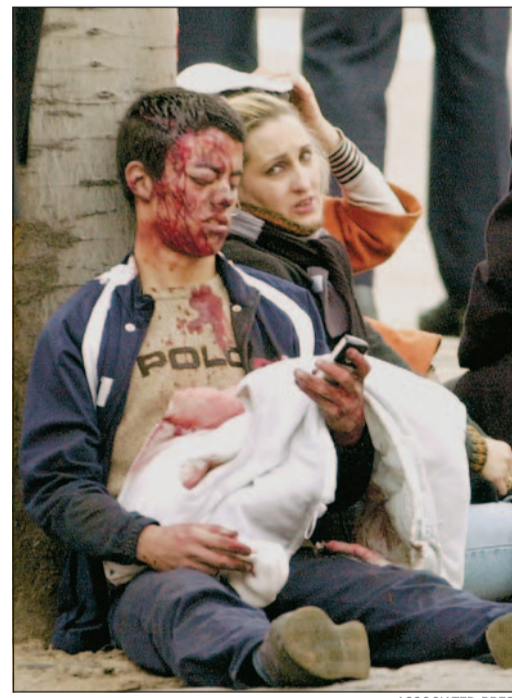
■ **Abroad:** Exchange students in Spain unhurt, officials say. **15A**

■ **Terror:** Officials unsure of blame for the attacks. **15A**

■ **Reactions:** Bombings abroad hit close to home. **Jim Stingl/1B**

■ **Stocks:** Market shaken by attacks overseas. **1D**

■ **Editorial:** **16A**



Two people injured by an explosion in a train wait for aid outside Atocha station in Madrid Thursday in attacks labeled as "infamy."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DA's office examining Pratt reports

City hands over campaign finance records dating to 1999

By **GREG J. BOROWSKI** and **STEVE SCHULTZE**
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The Milwaukee County district attorney's office is reviewing copies of campaign finance reports for Acting Mayor Marvin Pratt, dating back to 1999, a city election official said Thursday.

After earlier obtaining records, the district attorney's office returned a week ago to

pick up a copy of an amended report filed by Pratt, said Julietta Henry, head of the city Election Commission.

The Journal Sentinel reported this week that there is a gap of about \$116,000 between what is listed on Pratt's campaign finance reports and what bank statements show is in the account.

Also, a contribution of more than \$27,000 from Pratt to the campaign was added to the "amended report," and a certificate of deposit for \$50,000 apparently was counted twice.

Assistant District Attorney

David Feiss would not comment Thursday when asked whether his office is looking into Pratt or his finances. Nonetheless, a Milwaukee County circuit judge acknowledged this week that some aspect of the case is pending before him, although apparently no case file has been created.

Circuit Judge Victor Manian, who is in the criminal branch, referred questions to the district attorney's office.

Please see **PRATT, 6A**

■ **Letter:** Prosecutor raps Pratt for seeking mercy for staffer's son. **7A**

House OKs stiffer fines for broadcast indecency

Washington Post, Associated Press

Washington — The House on Thursday approved sharply higher fines for broadcasters and entertainers who break indecency rules, as Congress moves closer to cracking down on incidents that are deemed to be obscene or profane.

The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004, which passed 391-22, would give the Federal Communications Commission the ability to levy fines of up to \$500,000 per violation, up from the current \$27,500. Because

many shows are syndicated and played on numerous stations around the country, fines could run into the millions of dollars.

Broadcasters also could have their licenses revoked after a third violation.

The action follows public outcry over the baring of singer Janet Jackson's right

Please see **FINES, 7A**

■ **Cuprisin:** Indecency fines won't change TV habits. **8B**

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TODAY'S TMJ4 WEATHER

MAP, FORECASTS ON BACK OF SPORTS
TODAY: 33 / 10
 Sunny to partly cloudy.
TOMORROW: 43 / 18
 Increasing clouds and warmer.

A WORD — ARDOR
 (AHR duhr)
 Eagerness; enthusiasm; zeal. *n.*
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