



2 GIs killed in Iraq blast

Two U.S. soldiers are killed when the Humvee they are riding in strikes a homemade bomb, the military says.

The soldiers were part of an escort for a military convoy northeast of Habbiniyah in the Sunni Triangle when the incident occurred Thursday.

A third soldier was wounded in the blast. All were part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of Task Force All American.

— The Associated Press

INSIDE

High school championships

Girls' Thursday games

Hedgesville 54, F'mont Sr. 36
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For full coverage,

SPORTS: 1B

Ex-aide charged as Iraq spy

Susan Lindauer, 41, a former reporter and press aide for four members of Congress, is charged with being a paid Iraqi intelligence agent. "I'm an anti-war activist," she says. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else."



Lindauer

NEWS, 2A

Marshall falls to W. Michigan

The Thundering Herd is coraled by the Broncos, 96-62.

SPORTS, 1B

Bush unleashes negative ads

President Bush accuses John Kerry of seeking to raise taxes by \$900 billion and wanting to "delay defending America."

NEWS, 2A

Bad week for Jack Whittaker

Earlier in the week, he was sued; now, the Powerball winner has been robbed twice since Tuesday.

TODAY, 1C

Jessica Lynch postpones vows

Wirt County resident and former POW Jessica Lynch postpones her June wedding to Army Sgt. Ruben Contreras, her lawyer says; Lynch's busy schedule is blamed.



Contreras

TODAY, 1C

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Princeton High in seniors mess

Embattled Wyoming County director on aging let coaches use agency vans for games, scouting

By Eric Eyre
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Seniors directors to oust Graham as chief in meeting today, 2D

Wyoming County Council on Aging Director Bob Graham allowed the Princeton High School football and basketball teams to use senior center vans for the past five years, Mercer County school officials acknowledged Thursday.

The teams used the vans, which were intended to shuttle senior citizens, to haul equipment to ball-games across the state. Coaches also drove the vans on trips to scout future opponents.

Graham, a Princeton native, removed a Council on Aging van from the school last week after

the Gazette started asking questions about the arrangement, school officials said.

"He picked it up a week ago," said schools Superintendent Deborah Akers. "It's not there now."

The Council on Aging vans were purchased with state and federal money.

"I don't know how shuttling around Princeton

Please see **VANS, 11A**

A tale of two boards
Lincoln not Wyoming, panel says

By Chris Wetterich
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There are regular meetings. They receive reports on financial audits of the company. They vote on the director's salary. They remember how they got on the board.

Board members at the Lincoln County Opportunity Council paint a different picture of operations there than their counterparts on the Wyoming County Council on Aging board.

The women on the Wyoming board, who approved director Bob Graham's \$301,728 contract, have said they rarely discuss finances, attend meetings sporadically and in some cas-

Please see **BOARDS, 11A**

Basques? Al-Qaida?



KRT and AP photos

At least 192 dead, 1,400 wounded in Madrid rail blasts

By Mar Roman
The Associated Press

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 at 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 other 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 bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off, and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, and were Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

Please see **ATTACK, 11A**

TOP: A forensic police-woman examines a commuter train in Madrid on Thursday morning after 10 bombs ripped through trains in three train stations, killing more than 190 people.

ABOVE: One of the roughly 1,400 wounded is taken to a local hospital.

Panicked passengers ran everywhere

By Mar Roman
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Anibal Altamirano said fellow commuters around him were too stunned to move when the first bomb blew apart a train during rush hour Thursday morning.

When a second blast hit the busy Atocha station a few minutes later, everyone fled in panic.

"People dropped everything — bags and shoes — and ran, many trampling on others," said Altamirano, a 26-year-old Ecuadorian who was at the station a few blocks south of Madrid's famed Prado Museum. "People didn't know which way to go," he said. "Some even went into the train tunnels without thinking other trains could be coming."

In all, 10 bombs exploded in quick succession across the Spanish capital's commuter rail network, killing more than 190 people and wounding more than 1,400. "People started to scream and run, some bumping into each other, and as we ran there was another explosion," said Juani

Please see **SPAIN, 11A**

Calif. court blocks gay marriage; Mass. lawmakers near ban

By David Kravets
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages in the only state where they have been ruled legal.

Teary-eyed couples were quickly turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where 4,161 gay couples have tied the knot in the last month.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be denied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from

expressing it." The high court moved to block any more marriages, at least for now, until they decide whether San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom had the power to authorize such unions. The court said it would hear arguments in May or June on whether Newsom had that authority.

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consid-

er a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions.

The amendment won approval during three preliminary votes, before the Legislature recessed just before midnight Thursday. Lawmakers planned to return March 29 to resume deliberations.

Massachusetts took center stage in the national debate over

gay marriage following a landmark decision by its highest court in November that was reaffirmed last month.

The rulings set the stage for the nation's first legally sanctioned gay marriages on May 17.

Lawmakers seeking to put a gay marriage ban before Massachusetts voters were unsuccessful during a joint House-Senate session last month.

Please see **BILL, 11A**