



Holiday festivities  
take on a green hue

WEEKEND

Prairie girls make semifinals

SPORTS, B1

Port might land 300 new jobs

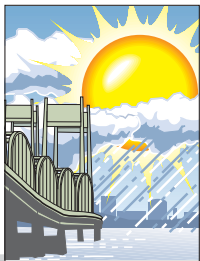
BUSINESS, E1

TODAY'S FORECAST

58  
HIGH

38  
LOW

Weather, D8



# The Columbian

www.columbian.com

SERVING CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON ■ FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004

50¢

## Lawmakers end session with budgets passed

### Threatened Locke veto may kill new primary system

By **DON JENKINS**  
*Columbian staff writer*

OLYMPIA — Lawmakers spent the session's last day passing budgets and were

#### LEGISLATURE

heading toward a midnight adjournment Thursday, hoping the governor won't veto a primary election bill and force them back into a special session.

"I'm a little nervous about that myself," said Sen. Don Carlson, R-Hazel Dell.

The operating, capital and transportation budgets were relatively routine midcourse updates of two-year spending plans adopted last year and passed by comfortable margins in the House and Senate.

But the fate of the session's centerpiece legislation, replacing the court-banned blanket

LEGISLATURE, page A6

#### MAJOR ACTIONS BY LAWMAKERS

- Replaced the state's blanket primary with a "Cajun" primary. Speculation abounds that Gov. Locke will veto the system. The state could fall back on a primary modeled after Montana election law.
- Authorized a limited number of school districts to experiment with

- charter schools run by nonprofits.
- Approved giving students as many as four chances to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, a graduation requirement.
- Passed a supplemental budget that will hike spending in the 2003-05 biennium by \$145 million, taking

the two-year budget to \$23.3 billion, including a \$304 million reserve.

- Appropriated another \$2 million to the Lewis and Clark Confluence Project, bringing the state's total contribution to \$5 million. The \$18 million project seeks to mark the bicentennial of the explorers' trip with public art, including works at two sites in Vancouver.

## Iraq case involves ex-aide

### She's charged with working for regime

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
*Associated Press writer*

NEW YORK — A former news reporter and press secretary for four members of Congress was charged Thursday with being a paid Iraqi intelligence agent and trying to contact her distant cousin — the



**Susan Lindauer**  
Once served four lawmakers

White House chief of staff — to alter U.S. policy.

Susan Lindauer, 41, was taken into custody in her hometown of Takoma Park, Md., and made a brief court appearance in Baltimore, where lawyers argued over whether she should be granted bail.

"I'm an anti-war activist and I'm innocent," Lindauer told WBAL-TV outside the Baltimore FBI office. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else. I have done good things for this country. I worked to get weapons inspectors back to Iraq when everyone else said it was impossible."

She was charged with conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Iraqi Intelligence Service and with engaging in prohibited financial

SPY CASE, page A6



PAUL WHITE/The Associated Press

Firefighters carry a body from the wreckage of a rail car after explosions targeted commuter trains during morning rush hour Thursday in Madrid, Spain. Backpack bombs exploded aboard four trains.

## 'Barbaric terrorism' in Madrid

By **MAR ROMAN**  
*Associated Press writer*

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 198 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 on 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 exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and were Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter

Al-Qaida link possible in train bombs that kill almost 200, injure 1,400

BOMBS, page A7

## Gay marriage halted in West; proposed ban advances in East

By **DAVID KRAVETS**  
*Associated Press writer*

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 more than 3,700 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."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions. The amendment won early approval but still must weather several additional votes and anticipated maneuvering by gay marriage supporters.

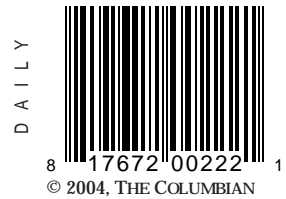
Massachusetts took center stage in the national debate over gay marriage following a landmark decision by its highest court in November that was reaffirmed last month. The rulings set the stage for the

MARRIAGE, page A7

#### INDEX

Business	E1
Clark County	C1
Classified	E8, G3
Comics	D6
Crosswords	D2, E14
Horoscope	D2
Legislature	C2
Letters	C6
Life	D1
Movies	Weekend F5
Obituaries	C4
Opinion	C6
Police	C3
Regional news	C2
Sports	B1
Television	D7
Weather	D8

We want to hear from you:  
See our service directory on A2



## Oregon won't alter a.m. bridge lifts

### Vancouver group urges different time

By **JULIA ANDERSON**  
*Columbian staff writer*

The battle over operation of the Interstate Bridge heated up Thursday when Oregon transportation officials said they will go ahead with daily midmorning bridge lifts starting Tuesday.

The decision came over the objections of many in the Clark County business community.

The lifts will halt all traffic on the bridge, which daily handles about 124,000 vehicles. The lifts will last for up to 15 minutes, but some Vancouver officials worry the resulting backlog will take much longer to clear.

"This situation boils down to what should be the pre-eminent principle: That the motoring public, including the private sector and freight haulers, should



MIKE SALSBUURY/The Columbian

Northbound Interstate 5 at 10:30 a.m. is a busy place, as this photo, taken Wednesday morning, shows.

be at the forefront in making this decision," said John McKibbin, president of the 1,200-member Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. "It looks like the motoring public is coming in

second."

The issue surfaced last week when Oregon Department of Transportation's Region One

BRIDGE, page A7