



STILL SHINING

Multitalented Jewel brings her show to Big Easy's stage



Cougars fall

Stanford ends WSU's season with Pac-10 tournament rout

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Judge upholds state sex-abuse law change

Ruling against Seattle Archdiocese could affect Spokane priest sex-abuse suits

By Virginia de Leon
Staff writer

The Archdiocese of Seattle's attempt to dismiss a lawsuit alleging clergy sex abuse was rejected by a judge Thursday — a decision that some say could weaken a similar effort launched by the Diocese of Spokane.

Like the Spokane Diocese, the Seattle Archdiocese filed a motion asking a judge to throw out a lawsuit by challenging the constitutionality of a 1988 change

in state law. That change broadened the statute of limitations for victims of childhood sex abuse, allowing them up to three years after the time they realize they were abused to file the suit.

On Thursday, King County Superior Court Judge Paris Kallas ruled against the Seattle Archdiocese's argument and denied summary judgment for dismissal of the case.

"This is a blow to the Spokane Diocese because their claims are directly contro-

WHAT'S NEXT

■ **Litigation:** Since the Archdiocese of Seattle lost its bid to dismiss the suit, a trial in King County is scheduled for March 22.

verted by existing case law in Washington," said Tim Kosnoff, an attorney representing several victims in Spokane.

"For us, it's good news."

Earlier this month, attorneys for the Spokane Diocese filed a motion in Spokane County Superior Court asking a judge to determine whether the Legislature was wrong to broaden the statute of limitations for childhood sex abuse victims. If approved, the motion could lead to the dismissal of 11 lawsuits alleging clergy sexual abuse against roughly 40 victims.

The hearing is scheduled for April 23

in Judge Maryann Moreno's courtroom.

Although Moreno is not bound by the King County judge's decision, "the fact that another judge in the state has considered these arguments and rejected them has got to help us," Kosnoff said.

The case in Seattle involved a victim who refused to settle with the Archdiocese of Seattle, attorneys say. Identified only by his initials, M.W. was one of 16

Continued: **Ruling/A5**

Blasts kill 192 in Madrid



Two injured people wait for aid following one of the blasts.

Al Qaeda-linked group claims responsibility for attacks on trains

By Mar Roman
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 Qaeda 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.

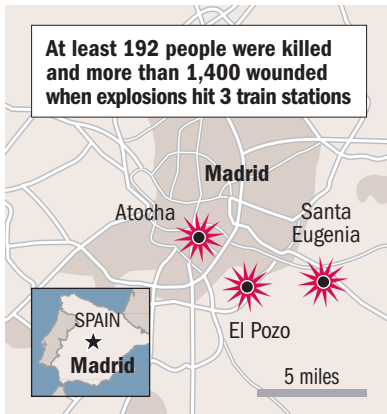
The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the

Continued: **Attacks/A9**



Associated Press photos

Firefighters carry out a body on a stretcher from a bomb-damaged passenger train following a number of explosions on trains in Madrid on Thursday.



Knight Ridder Tribune

'All of Spain cries' after blasts

By Todd Richissin
Baltimore Sun

MADRID, Spain — Fernando Gonzalez was apologetic Thursday, partly for his struggle to speak English but mostly for his tears, which he could not stop.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry," said the 37-year old truck driver, who lives in the capital's Atocha

Tragedy deflates city known for optimism

neighborhood, less than a mile from the train station of the same name, which took the brunt of 10 bombs that exploded here Thursday.

"I'm sorry," he said again, "but today all of Spain cries."

Thursday was a day of tears in a city known for its bright gaiety, a day of trepidation in a city known for its optimism. Everywhere — in the city's cafes and restaurants where red-eyed women and red-eyed men sat silently or talked

Continued: **City/A9**

Session's end finds a few happy with results

Local conservatives pleased; liberals wanted more for schools

By Richard Roesler
Staff writer

OLYMPIA — To the relief of lawmakers eager to get home and hit the campaign trail, the state Legislature was on track late Thursday night to adjourn, as expected, after a short and largely lackluster legislative session.

"Like they say: Happiness is the Capitol in your rearview mirror," said Senate budget writer Joe Zarelli, R-Ridgefield.

Still, several liberal lawmakers said they wish more had been accomplished, such as spending more dollars on education.

"I see this session as kind of a missed opportunity," said Senate Minority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane. "I was hoping for a little bit more roll-up-our-sleeves-and-get-things-done."

Local conservatives, however, said they were pleased that some of the session's most dramatic proposals got killed or watered down.

"It was one of the quietest, least productive sessions I've ever been in," said Rep. Larry Crouse, R-Spokane. "But 'least productive' means we didn't pass a lot of bills that burden people down."

"You have to have some realistic expectations in a short session," said Rep. Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville. "Nobody had their program cut, and nobody had their taxes raised."

In the end, lawmakers approved a modest supplemental budget, a split-the-difference compromise between Republicans' \$79 million plan and Democrats' \$225 million version. Democrats weren't satisfied, but some voted for the budget anyway.

"There is another day, and we will be back fighting," vowed Sen. Rosa Franklin, D-Tacoma.

Brown was disappointed that the compromise budget includes only a "puny" amount of extra money for schools and colleges. It adds about \$6 million for public schools, she said, and about \$24 million for higher education.

"And we did \$80 million in tax breaks," she said. "That's the lack of balance."

One last-minute nail-biter late Thursday night was the supplemental

Continued: **Session/A6**



County's first Internet sex sting trial ends with acquittal

Jury finds man had intent, but didn't attempt to have sex with fictitious 13-year-old

By Kevin Blocker
Staff writer

The law says if an adult merely knocks on the door and expects to have sex with a child who was contacted over the Internet, then that adult has taken a "substantial step" toward the rape of a child.

But proving that intent can be difficult, as

prosecutors found last week. A jury last week acquitted 23-year-old Sean M. Brainard, who was arrested for trying to set up sex with a 13-year-old girl who turned out to be a Spokane police detective.

Prosecutors charged Brainard with attempted second-degree rape of a child after three weeks worth of sexually graphic Internet chats with the detective he thought

was a girl. It was the first Internet sting case in Spokane County to go before a jury.

Prosecutors are regrouping after the acquittal. Since 1999, local police have used the sting to arrest more than a dozen men, who have accepted plea bargains or admitted guilt in their attempts to have sex

Continued: **Acquittal/A6**

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