

Sniper may have shot man in bus staging area

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police put a widespread dragnet into place, clogging traffic on Connecticut Avenue, one of the main arteries into Washington, just as the morning commute began.

The shooting happened near an apartment building and wooded area along Connecticut Avenue.

The bus was parked at a staging area where drivers get ready for their morning runs, state police spokesman Cpl. Rob Moroney said.

He didn't know if anyone else was on the bus.

Johnson, a 10-year county employee, was taken to Suburban Hospi-

tal in Bethesda.

Agents for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms combed the crime scene.

A police dog searched near a basketball court in a park, and police helicopters flew over the scene.

"I was getting ready to leave for work this morning. I heard a loud bang," said Kim Roberts, a carpenter who lives nearby. "It wasn't a pop like a handgun. It was a gun, it was a high-powered weapon." He said he knew about the sound of weapons from his military service.

Within minutes, police closed many roads around the shooting scene and set up roadblocks at points along the Capi-

tal Beltway.

Teams of officers were stopping all cars driven by men, not just white minivans or box trucks which have been the focus of earlier sniper shootings.

By late morning, the roadblocks were largely lifted, police said.

On Monday, the hunt had turned into a case of high-stakes phone tag.

Saturday night, the sniper critically wounded a 37-year-old man outside a steakhouse in Ashland, Va.

On Monday, police said they received a call about the attack, hinting it was from the sniper, but that the call was muddled.

"The person you called could not

hear everything you said. The audio was unclear and we want to get it right. Call us back so that we can clearly understand," said Moose, who has been leading the hunt.

Moose did not disclose who received the call, when it was made or other details.

But investigators believe the call may have come from the sniper and that the caller was the person who left the note and phone number at the scene of Saturday night's shooting, a law enforcement source told the AP, asking not to be named.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified federal agents, said the letter was poorly worded, bordering on bro-

ken English.

On Sunday, Moose pleaded with the note writer to call authorities.

Then in the first of two televised statements Monday, the chief said: "The message that needs to be delivered is that we are going to respond to a message that we have received."

We are preparing our response at this time."

Saturday's victim was felled by a single shot to the stomach. He remained in critical but stable condition at a Richmond hospital today after doctors removed his spleen and parts of his pancreas and stomach. Surgeons retrieved the bullet after surgery Sunday, and ballistics tests linked the slug

to the ambush killer.

Moose's plea Monday came hours after Virginia authorities surrounded a white van parked near an Exxon gas station just outside Richmond and seized two men.

They said later the men had no connection to the sniper.

Several newspapers reported today that the men apparently made the mistake of driving the white van up to a phone booth being watched by police. The booth had been traced to one that the letter writer had used.

A Justice Department official said deportation proceedings had begun against the two — a 24-year-old Mexican and 35-year-old Guatemalan.

Bombing complicating efforts to end years of violence

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

KARKUR JUNCTION, Israel — A bus bombing that killed 14 people and two attackers is complicating renewed U.S. efforts to bring an end to two years of Palestinian-Israeli violence.

A vehicle stuffed with explosives drove up to a bus stopped at a highway station Monday and blew up, turning the bus into a fiery mass of twisted metal. Dozens of people were wounded.

The attack, the bloodiest Palestinian suicide bombing in three months, came as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns toured the region, planning talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials later this week about a U.S. peace plan.

Mark Sofer, a spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, said the attack was intended to undermine Burns' visit. He is due in Israel on Wednesday, carrying a U.S. plan for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The militant Islamic Jihad movement claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred during afternoon rush hour near the town of Hadera.

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela's opposition called for a December referendum on the rule of Hugo Chavez during a general strike, and vowed more civil disobedience if the president tries to block the vote.

The government said Monday's strike, the third since December, cost the economy \$300 million, and warned that more like it would only further

around the world

damage Venezuela's struggling economy.

It emptied streets, highways and schools, canceled airline flights, shut factories and stores and kept hospital services to a minimum. Most newspapers didn't publish.

Still, in a sign that many are tired of the rallies and demonstrations, more people reported to work Monday than during general strikes in December and April. Auto plants, many small stores, gasoline stations, public schools and banks were open.

The government played down the strike's success and vowed that Chavez won't resign.

Opposition leaders say the country cannot wait until the next presidential election in December 2006 to replace Chavez.

NATIONAL

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Six American-born men of Yemeni descent have been indicted on charges they supported foreign terrorists after allegedly training at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan attended by Osama bin Laden.

The defendants, from the Buffalo suburb of Lackawanna, were scheduled to be arraigned today. Authorities say the charges are largely based on allegations that they attended the terror camp, where bin Laden declared that there "is going to be a fight against Americans."

The suspects have professed their

innocence, but prosecutors maintain they were awaiting orders from bin Laden's group to carry out an attack in the United States.

However, they acknowledged there was no evidence of an imminent threat posed by the men, who were arrested just days after the Sept. 11 anniversary.

A federal grand jury indicted the defendants on Monday on two counts of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization. The charges carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison under a 1996 law that prohibits giving money, weapons or other tangible support to foreign groups deemed terrorist organizations by the government.

NEW YORK — Securities and Exchange Commission lawyers have told Martha Stewart that they are ready to file civil securities fraud charges against the home decor entrepreneur for her alleged role in an insider trading scandal, according to published reports Tuesday.

The SEC gave Stewart a formal notice last month of its intent to file civil charges, and Stewart's attorneys have reportedly responded, which is allowed before the commission makes its final decision.

In most cases, such a notice leads to filing of charges.

The possibility of civil charges represents a potentially devastating scen-

ario for Stewart, who is accused of selling shares of ImClone Systems after getting tipped off about negative news surrounding one of its promising new cancer drugs.

Stewart has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged, but the scandal has fractured her multibillion-dollar media empire.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — After blazing new records on the fund-raising trail this year, President Bush has reached the end of the road in his quest for campaign cash.

The president has shifted into get-out-the-vote mode, starting at rallies today in Pennsylvania and Maine.

Bush has headlined 66 fund-raisers this year, an average of one every four days, but plans no more before Election Day, several White House officials said. His efforts brought in more than \$140 million for Republicans.

He crossed the finish line Thursday with a double-header that saw him haul in \$1 million for the Florida GOP and \$800,000 for Georgia's gubernatorial and Senate candidates.

Bush shut the door on all money events with a thank-you bow Monday night to the Republican National Committee's "Regents" — those who have given more than \$250,000 over the past two years.

From there, it was rallies for Bush today in Downingtown, Pa., for gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher and congressional hopeful Jim Gerlach; and on to Bangor, Maine, for congressional candidate Kevin Raye, Sen.

Susan Collins and gubernatorial hopeful Peter Cianchette.

WASHINGTON — By manipulating swine sperm, Italian researchers have made a strain of pigs that carry human genes in their hearts, livers and kidneys, an advance that could lead to creating herds of pigs that could provide organs for transplanting into humans.

In a study appearing today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers at the University of Milan report they mixed swine sperm with human DNA to transfer a gene called decay accelerating factor, or DAF.

"What we obtain at high efficiency and low cost is genetically modified pigs expressing the human protein," said Dr. Marialuisa Lavitrano, a University of Milan researcher and first author of the study.

Lavitrano said 205 piglets in 20 litters were produced using the modified sperm technique and the human genes were present in 20 percent to 50 percent of the young. Tests showed that the human genes were present in the animals' central organs and that the human genes would be passed along to later generations of pigs.

Organs from the test animals are not ready for transplantation into humans because there are still pig genes that would cause the organs to be quickly rejected, Lavitrano said. But she added that the technique shows that by adding human genes to pig sperm it is possible to develop animals with organs that will not be rejected by the human

immune system.

WASHINGTON — Workers with 401(k) retirement plans are getting a new legal protection next year, a regulation that requires 30 days' notice before a company can block access to retirement savings accounts for administrative changes.

The Labor Department issued the regulation Monday, to take effect Jan. 26. Congress ordered the rule as part of a corporate accountability law passed this summer.

Congress has failed to pass legislation strictly to tighten protections for workers with 401(k) plans. The 30-day notice of blackout periods was about all Republicans and Democrats could agree on, so it was included in the corporate accountability bill that passed.

About 40 million Americans have about \$1.5 trillion invested in 401(k) plans.

Plan administrators who fail to provide the 30-day notice can be fined up to \$100 per day per plan participant. Companies are not required to notify the Labor Department of a blackout period.

Classifieds work!
899-2338

Parking limitation lamented in meeting

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officers had put on their trailers. One had been there 15 minutes, he said, and the other was there 20 minutes.

The commissioners and Pickman agreed they couldn't do anything about it without knowing who got the tickets and asking the officers who issued them to explain.

Jacobs said he didn't want to give the names because he didn't want them to be public.

He said they were warnings, not tickets, and that he had seen them.

One of the individuals said it is police harassment, Jacobs said.

"I find that hard to believe," Commissioner Chuck Lutters said.

Pickman said the people who got the tickets should come in to the city office

and talk to someone who can do something about it. The meeting was not the right forum to discuss it, he said.

Lutters agreed. "Why are you coming in here with it?" he asked. "It's just giving the paper something to write about."

"You're making a public issue out of this."

In other business:

• The city manager reminded commissioners to make reservations if they plan to attend the League of Kansas Municipalities seminar on planning and zoning Friday, Nov. 8, in Colby or the league's regional supper Thursday, Nov. 14, in WaKeeney.

• Commissioner Dean Blume suggested advertising a city-wide trash pickup to try to get some stuff out of town.

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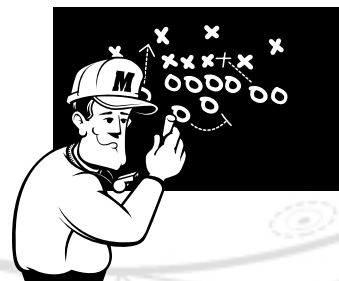
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