

# CAPITOL COMMUNITY

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CALIFORNIA STATE EMPLOYEES

### EMPLOYMENT

State employment is in the news – just look at our top story on this page – but there's a lot going on you should know about. Take a look at this week's listings, which include an expanded list of the new hires.

B10

### MOVIES

At the movies: This week, Capitol Weekly takes a look at "The International," "Fired Up," and "A Secret." Check it out.

B4

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

The annual open enrollment window for legal services is set to open March 1 and stay open through April 30. Nearly 34,000 state employees currently are enrolled in the program, and more are expected.

B10



WEEK IN PHOTOS

## Give me back my Bible!



Actor Roger Vincent played Abraham Lincoln and delivered the Gettysburg Address at a celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday on Thursday at the California Museum. The Museum will also host Library of Congress' Lincoln exhibition in June. Lincoln famously shares the same birthday (Feb. 12, 1909) with another historical figure being much celebrated this month, Charles Darwin. In other Lincoln-birthday news, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been trying to get public employee unions to give up this holiday and Columbus Day.

## State starts layoff sequence for up to 10,000 workers

As budget fight drags on, workers, projects, vendors caught in the middle

CAPITOL WEEKLY STAFF

Layoff warnings began being sent out Tuesday from some 54 state departments to thousands of state workers, the first step in a lengthy process that ultimately could result in layoffs of up to 10,000 people.

The announcements, called "surplus notices," were being sent to 20,000 state employees. The notices, required by law when layoffs loom, tell workers that they face potential layoffs after 120 days, although the precise number of layoffs was uncertain, said Lynelle Jolley, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Personnel Administration. The DPA represents the Schwarzenegger administration in labor negotiations with the state's unionized workforce. The state employs about 238,000 workers.

The total magnitude of the potential layoffs is still unknown.

Although 20,000 notices are being sent out, "the number of employees who will ultimately be laid off as a result of this process is estimated to be as high as 10,000. We don't really know yet because we don't really know what kind of budget the legislators will adopt," she added. The uncertainty stems from the number of vacant positions, the number of workers who have downward demotion, or "bumping rights," as opposed to outright layoffs; natural attrition and other factors. "We can't lay off anybody faster than 120 days," she noted.

State employees weren't the only ones caught in the fiscal vice as the governor and Legislature try to cover a \$41.6 billion budget shortage.

Some 276 transportation construction projects totaling \$3.8 billion were also put on hold,

## California educational community awaits federal stimulus funds

CAPITOL WEEKLY STAFF

For California education, the top-turvy world of state and federal budgeting has been feast or famine – and mostly famine.

But that may be about to change.

Thus far, the precise numbers are a moving target, although by any yardstick the infusion of money into California education is likely to be above \$11 billion, according to the National

Education Association, and some estimates put the figure higher. The money, roughly half of the \$22 billion in federal emergency cash that the state is expected to get, flows from the \$100 billion in education funding destined for some 14,000 school districts in the 50 states.

About \$9.6 billion of the California funding is slated to go to K-12 and post-secondary education through 2010.

For California schools, the sudden likelihood of cash is a sharp departure from what was expected. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a \$5 billion cut to schools, a move that infuriated teachers, administrators, parental groups and others. The proposed reduction was part of the administration's

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see WORKERS, page B5

  
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