

LOCAL NEWS

MILLCREEK

Here's news to text, but not while behind the wheel:

Millcreek Township supervisors support a ban on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

Supervisors voted, 2-0, Tuesday to endorse the state legislature's potential adoption of a law that would prohibit the use of laptop computers and cell phones, including for texting, while driving.

It's part of a growing movement that seeks to keep drivers focused on the road.

Philadelphia's ban on using cell phones took effect Tuesday.

The eight-member Erie Area Council of Governments could vote today on a resolution similar to Millcreek's.

Erie City Council will hold a public hearing today at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall, 626 State St. on an ordinance that would prohibit the use of cell phones while driving within city limits.

While the city is moving toward its own ban, Millcreek Supervisor Brian McGrath said the township supports a statewide prohibition.

ERIE

High school seniors in the Erie region can participate in the fourth annual "Words to Be Heard" scholarship contest sponsored by the Edgar Snyder & Associates law offices.

According to a news release from the law firm, students are asked to write a proposal for a program that would teach pre-teens and teenagers the consequences associated with underage drinking and drunken driving. The grand prize winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to the school of his or her choice.

Additional scholarship prizes are \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for the runner-up.

Letters have been sent to area high school guidance counselors announcing the contest.

MEADVILLE

Police in Vernon Township are urging residents to lock their vehicles as a string of thefts continue.

More than a dozen vehicle owners in the township have reported their vehicles entered and items taken over the past week, police said. The most recent reports were made Tuesday morning, when three vehicles that were parked along Rogers Ferry Road were burglarized, police said.

In each case, the vehicle was left unlocked, Vernon Police Chief Randy Detzel said. Items reported stolen included cash, clothing and cigarettes.

www.goerie.com

NATIONAL NEWS

New Job Ideas

With the U.S. unemployment rate above 10 percent for the first time in 27 years, a sense of urgency is growing.

On Thursday in Washington, President Barack Obama held a jobs summit, attended by 130 business leaders, union leaders and economists.

To the assembled experts, President Obama said that the U.S. government must act quickly in the fight against unemployment, but cautioned that he had only limited funds to create jobs.

"We cannot hang back and hope for the best," he warned.

Indeed, any new spending plans aimed at reducing joblessness will run into opposition from Republicans in Congress.

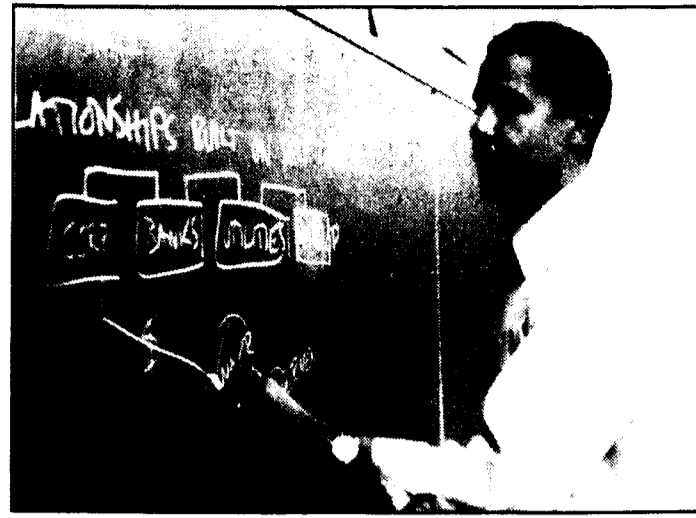
They are already irritated by the billions of dollars spent on emergency bail-outs for banks and carmakers, begun under one of their own, President George W. Bush.

Running up budget deficits to be paid for by future generations has a bad name in Washington. But an economist on the conservative side Mark Zandi of Economy.com, says deficits are a big concern, but not something we can afford to worry about right now.

"That's a problem not for 2009, not for 2010. That's a problem for 2011, 2012 and beyond," he says.

"We have to make sure that we don't go back into a recession, because if we go back into recession, the cost to taxpayers will be even greater. The deficits will be measurably larger, so I think it's important to spend more money now."

Mr Zandi says some govern-



www.my.barackobama.com

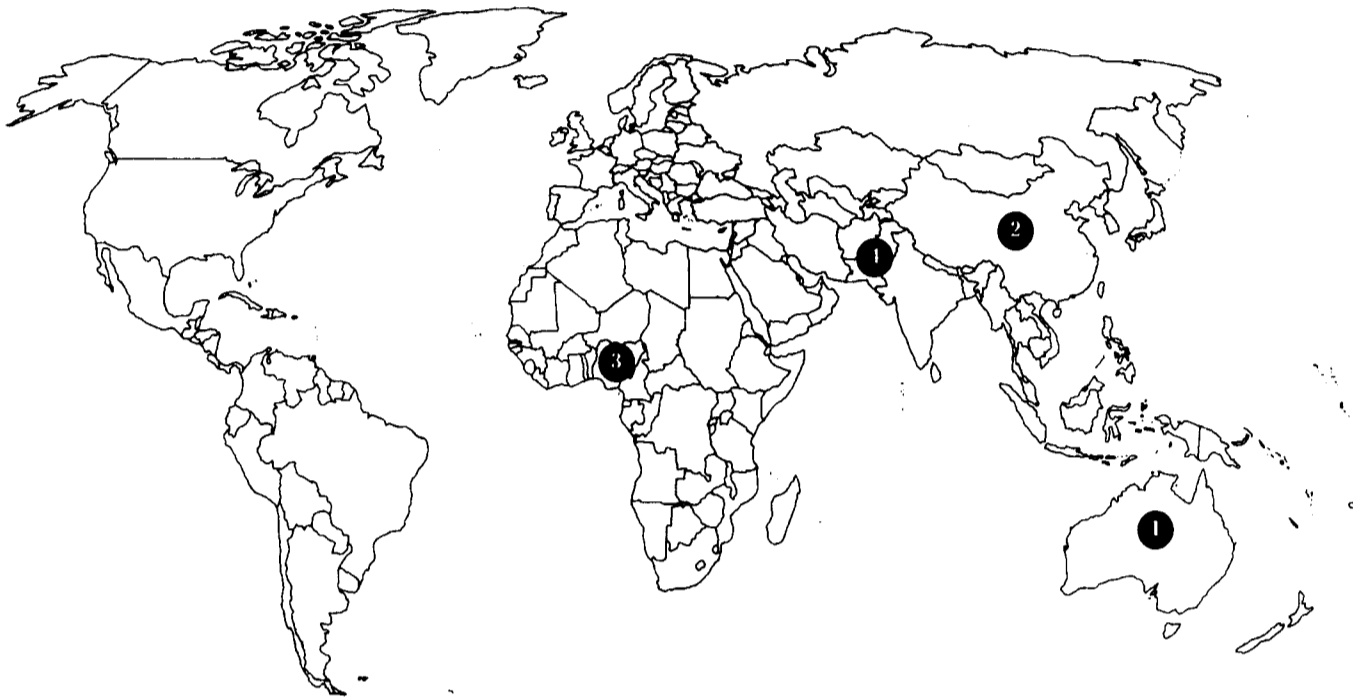
ment spending needs to be focused on state and local governments whose tax revenues have fallen, so that they do not have to lay off workers.

Another top priority is unemployment benefits, which normally run out after six months

in the U.S., though they have been extended in states with the highest unemployment rates.

--BBC World News

World News



1. Australia carbon laws fail to pass

SYDNEY, Australia -- The Australian government plans to reintroduce its emission trading scheme to the parliament for a third time in February after a hostile Senate voted down the legislation on Wednesday.

However, Julia Gillard, acting prime minister, said the Labor government did not plan to call an early election on the issue even though the second Senate rejection had given it the power to do so.

"The prime minister [Kevin Rudd], on a number occasions, has said it's his intention to have the parliament go full term," she said. "[He] has also said that he is determined to see this legislation pass the parliament."

Ms Gillard said the govern-

ment would reintroduce the ETS to provide the opposition Liberal party with an opportunity to "work through and deal with this legislation in the national interest."

-- CNN

2. Chinese media reveal secret

BEIJING, China -- Secret, illegal "black jails" exist in China, a state-run weekly has confirmed, despite official denials otherwise.

Chinese citizens in search of justice often end up in such detention centers when they file complaints against the government, the state-run weekly magazine Outlook reported last week.

A network of such jails awaits the petitioners when they travel to Beijing and

provincial capitals to seek redress or compensation for injustices. Many are victims of land grabs, physical assault, discrimination and corruption, often at the hands of local officials.

-- CNN

3. President asked to step down

NIGERIA -- More than 50 Nigerian public figures have called on President Umaru Yar'Adua to resign, saying ill health has impaired his judgement.

Several Nigerian newspapers carried a statement asking him to step down that was signed by senior political figures and democracy activists, among others.

But ministers dismissed the statement, saying there was "no

basis" for the president to leave office.

He is currently being treated for a heart problem.

--BBC World News

4. Bomber kills Pakistani politician

PAKISTAN -- A leading politician has been killed in a suicide blast in the Swat Valley of north-west Pakistan, police say.

The bomber targeted a guest house owned by North West Frontier Province (NWFP) assembly member Shamsheer Ali Khan.

At least eight others, among them Mr. Khan's brother, were seriously injured in the attack near Mingora.

The Taliban are blamed for a spate of recent attacks in Pakistan.

--BBC World News

BEACON ONLINE

The new Beacon website, www.thebehrendbeacon.com, is your online source for campus news.

Constantly updated with new and breaking news stories, the website will feature immediate coverage of events as well as an archive of past articles in the Beacon.

We also offer a Twitter account, @behrendbeacon, which will be used to let students know of breaking news happening at the college: notification of important events about to begin, police reports at the campus, or developments not yet released to students by the college.

The site also offers an RSS feed, links to Erie resources, and Behrend students' blogs.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It is by acts and not by ideas that people live."  
- Anatole France

www.quoteorama.com

FACT OF THE WEEK

George Washington never wore wooden dentures - but his horse did.

www.factropolis.com

CONTACT US

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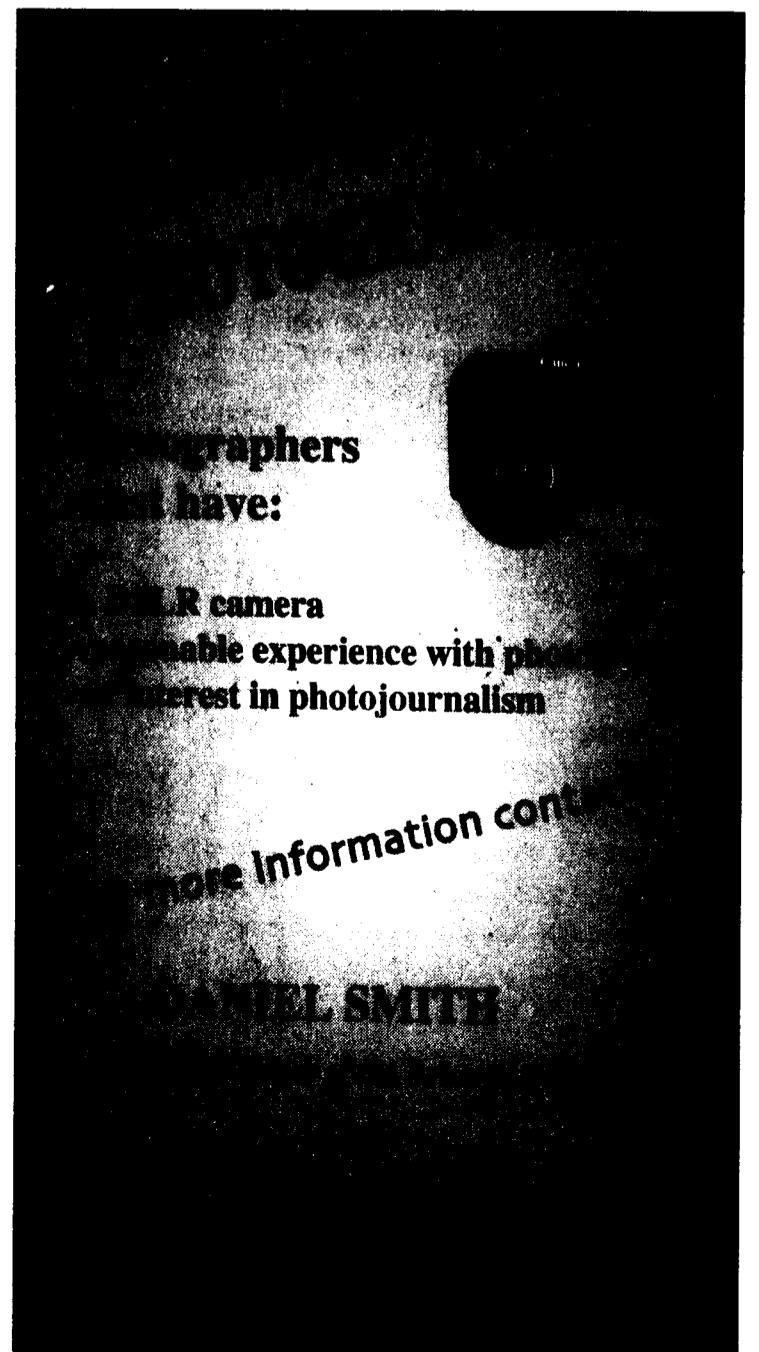
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