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predict the King of Pop will be 'fully exonerated' By Lynda Deutsch

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's legal team said the pop star will be fully exonerated when he goes to trial on child molestation charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A source close to the case told The Associated Press on Thursday that Jackson was indicted, although authorities wouldn't confirm it and the indictment handed up by a Santa Barbara County grand jury was sealed.

Jackson's publicist and his legal defense team issued a statement Wednesday that did not confirm an indictment but said: "Mr. Jackson and his attorneys are confident that after a trial on these charges Mr. Jackson will be fully exonerated and that the allegations contained in the indictment will be shown to be

A judge has issued a gag order that prohibits attorneys on both sides from discussing the case with the media.

Jackson spokeswoman Raymone Bain told The Associated Press that she had spoken with Jackson on Wednesday, but would say only that the singer "is out and about."

The closed-door grand jury proceedings replaced a preliminary hearing, which is open to the public. Both proceedings are to determine whether there is enough evidence for a case to go

Four months ago, county prosecutors charged Jackson with seven counts of lewd or lascivious acts on a child under the age of 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. Jackson pleaded innocent in January to those charges and has been free on \$3 million bail.

Jackson is scheduled to be arraigned April 30 on the grand jury

Jackson attorney Mark Geragos, reached by telephone, would not answer questions from The Associated Press.

The district attorney's office also would not comment about media reports, said Susan Tellem of Tellem Worldwide him handle media inquiries for District Attorney Tom Sneddoning case. Calls by The Associated Press to Sneddon and others in office were not immediately returned.

Jacko indicted

Grand jury indicts Michael Jackson while lawyer

Transcripts of the secret grand jury proceeding will be my ed to Jackson's defense team within the next 10 days. The be scripts will then be made public 10 days after that unless Jackson's attorneys can convince a judge doing so would ge dice a future jury pool.

The grand jury has spent the last three weeks hearing from nesses, including a 14-year-old boy who claims the superstate ally abused him.

On Wednesday, grand jurors were whisked from the prox ings to the downtown Santa Barbara courthouse in vans with ened windows. There they met with Sneddon and presiding Superior Court Judge Clifford Anderson.

Conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges were being considered against several associates of Michael Jackson h allegedly threatening the family of the boy who has account Jackson of child molestation, the Los Angeles Times report Wednesday.

An unidentified source close to the case told the Times to charges were under consideration.

Attorney Joseph Tacopina said there had been speculation two of his clients, Vincent Amen and Frank Tyson, woulding be indicted by the grand jury or charged separately with ale intimidation of witnesses. He denied the allegations and said two former Jackson employees would not appear before the

The attorney said the accusations came from the boy's mit and were "patently false."

Tellem said the district attorney would have no commen because of a gag order.

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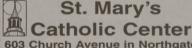
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Daily Masses Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church Tues.&Thurs.: 12:05 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel **Weekend Masses**

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Meeting for Worship is held from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the library of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, at 305 Wellborn Road, College Station, Texas.

For more information, call Karen James at 846-7093, or Jim Fletcher, at 693-1561

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PEOPLE IN THE NEW

Bucks even score with Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. A Michael Redd scored a tr playoff-high 26 points as Milwaukee Bucks beat the Dat Pistons 92-88 Wednesday nig even the series at 1-1

In other series Wednesda Minnesota and Miami too leads with home v Minnesota beat Denver 95 Miami routed New Orleans On Thursday night, de

champion San Antonio art runner-up New Jersey will sweep their first-round serie Antonio is at Memphis, at Jersey at New York.

Sharon loses support for Gall withdrawl plan

JERUSALEM (AP) -Minister Ariel Sharon is ground in his hard-line like less than two weeks before vote on his plan to pull out Strip and West Bank ! according to an opinion po lished Thursday.

Taking on his critics, addressed the Israeli pari Thursday to defend the "Anyone who wants Israel ate and not be dragged, tole not be led, must support the gagement plan," Sharon s

Sharon had decided to b so-called disengagement the 200,000 members of his for approval. While not addressing the declinings in surveys, Sharon hinted parliamentary address to would press for Cabinet liamentary approval even loses his party vote. Initia had said the Likud refer would be binding.

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