



Annual Punkin Chuckin' contest shows how far pumpkins can really go.

Terror attacks hit U.S. in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Suicide bombers struck the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing about 40 people and injuring more than 200 in a coordinated terror spree that stunned the Iraqi capital on the first day of the Islamic holy month of fasting, Ramadan.

The string of car bombings, all within about 45 minutes, was the bloodiest attack yet in the city of 5 million by insurgents targeting the American-led occu-

pation and those perceived as working with it.

It also appeared to be a dramatic escalation in tactics, suggesting a level of organization that U.S. officials had doubted the resistance possessed. In past weeks, bombers have carried out heavy suicide bombings but in single strikes.

President Bush said U.S. progress in Iraq is making insurgents more "desperate" and fueling attacks.

Sitting next to civilian U.S. Iraqi administrator L. Paul Bremer in

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The Associated Press

Firefighters work to contain fires at Rocky Peak Mtwy, on state Freeway 118, on Monday in Simi Valley, Calif. The 80,000-acre blaze in suburban Simi Valley, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles, jumped the highway and came within yards of several homes before firefighters began to get the upper hand.

Wildfires kill 13 in California

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The hot Santa Ana wind driving wildfires across parts of Southern California eased Monday but officials warned that there was still a threat from the flames that had devoured entire neighborhoods and killed at least 13 people.

Gov. Gray Davis announced he was activating the National Guard, calling on more resources from neighboring states and predicted the cost of the fires would be in the billions.

More than 900 homes had been destroyed and an estimated 30,000 others were still in danger, officials said.

The blazes scattered from the Mexican border to the suburbs of Los Angeles had triggered a harrowing flight to safety for thousands of residents, along with hospital patients and prison inmates.

"I was grabbing wet towels. Fire was at our feet. It was blazing over our heads and burning everywhere," said Lisza Pontes,

43, recounting her Sunday morning escape from a fire in San Diego County.

The death toll was the state's worst since the 1991 fire in the Oakland hills of Alameda County that killed 25 and destroyed more than 3,200 homes and apartments.

Many of those who died had waited until the last minute to flee, Sheriff Bill Kolender said Monday. "When you are asked to leave, do it immediately. Do not wait," he said at a news conference.

Airline travel was disrupted, major highways were blocked and some schools were closed. Monday night's pro football game between the Chargers and Dolphins was shifted from San Diego to Arizona.

At least one of the fires was believed to be a result of arson. "That's an evil move. What kind of fun is that, to put so many lives in danger," said Steven Herrera, 41, of Pinecrest.

HILLSIDE RETREAT



CLAIRE NAPIER The Daily Illini

Travis Dean, junior in FAA, works with a group building models in the architecture studio on the second floor of the Architecture Building on Monday night. The piece in the foreground is a design for a retreat house based off the landscape at Kickapoo State Park in Oakwood, Ill.

Study: Women find it difficult to kick the smoking habit

BY MAGGIE DUNPHY
Staff writer

Nellie Fiorenzi sat outside the English building Monday afternoon with a half-smoked cigarette dangling from between the fingers on her left hand.

The cigarette was one of about 30 she would smoke by the end of the day. Fiorenzi, senior in LAS, was one of thousands of women who would smoke Monday, Tuesday and probably the remaining days of the week, month and year.

Fiorenzi said she has tried to quit smoking five or six times and plans to try again in the future, but the statistics are not in her favor. A recent American Legacy Foundation study said most young women who quit smoking resume the habit within a year.

According to the organization's annual telephone survey pub-

lished in July 2003, only 3 percent of women ages 16 through 24 succeeded in quitting for one year, compared to the 60 percent who tried to quit.

The American Legacy Foundation, a national public health foundation, surveyed 6,572 people ages 12 through 24 from July 2002 through January 2003. According to the survey, 25 percent of women ages 16 through 24 lit up in 2002.

"I just get really nervous (when I stop smoking)," Fiorenzi said. She said the longest period she has gone without a cigarette has been two weeks. She averages a pack and a half a day.

Vicky Yeisley, junior in LAS, said she has been smoking for the past six years and has tried to quit about four times. The longest amount of time she said she went without a cigarette was three

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Truths about tobacco and addiction

- In 2000, 10 percent of middle school girls and 27 percent of high school girls admitted to smoking.
- 23 percent of all adult Americans and 21 percent of American men are smokers.
- Smoking has caused about 3 million premature deaths among women since 1985.
- Tobacco related diseases kill 178,000 American women each year.
- In 1987, lung cancer passed breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer among American women.
- Five to 15 years after quitting, the risk of stroke is the same as a person who has never smoked.
- Quitting is difficult; the average smoker makes eight to 11 attempts before succeeding.

Source: American Legacy Foundation

Daily Illini Graphic by Prashant Mehta

Candidates emerge for 2004 election

7 Republicans campaign to represent party in Senate

BY DAN FARNHAM
Staff writer

When Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, (R-Ill.), announced in April that he would not be seeking re-election, the Republican primary for the 2004 U.S. Senate race suddenly became wide open.

Since then, seven candidates with a variety of backgrounds have stepped up, hoping to represent the Republicans in the Nov. 2004 election — here's a quick look at each candidate:

JOHN BORLING

A retired Air Force major general from Rockford, Borling is running with the slogan "Duty Calls Again."

Borling had a 37-year military career. He is also the founder and CEO of Service Over Self America, a patriotic organization advocating a mandatory one-year term of service in the military for all men and women who volunteer.

Job creation and protection,

restraining dangerous national tax and spend practices, and the problem of accessible and affordable health care are three important issues to him, according to his Web site.

CHIRINJEEV KATHURIA

A physician and businessman from Chicago, Kathuria was born in India but has lived in the United States since childhood.

Kathuria says he has prospered greatly in this country and wants to become a senator in order to give back to the country and to Illinois.

Because of his connection to the medical profession, he said he wants to make prescription drugs more affordable, but thinks that making American drugs more affordable takes priority over trying to import less expensive drugs from Canada.

ANDY MCKENNA

The CEO of Schwarz Paper Co. in Morton Grove, McKenna calls

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Democrats vie for open seat

BY DAN FARNHAM
Staff writer

Having an open race for U.S. Senate would normally be a great opportunity for the Illinois Democratic candidates.

But with the Republicans having only a 51-48 majority in the Senate, the Illinois race could be a key race in deciding who has majority control in the Senate.

Some speculate that incumbents have a better chance at winning than challengers because of name recognition and familiarity.

But with no incumbent running, the Illinois Democrats theoretically have as good of a chance of winning the election as the Republicans.

Here is an overview of the eight Democrats who have entered the primary.

GERY CHICO

The former president of Chicago Public Schools, Chico hopes to strengthen the education system and economy.

"We need an economy that allows our graduates to be optimistic about getting a job," he said.

Chico leads all Senate candidates so far with \$2.8 million raised, and if elected, he would be the first Latino elected to the Senate in more than 30 years.

BLAIR HULL

A resident of Chicago, Hull has been particularly vocal about his opposition to President George W. Bush, even creating an anti-Bush Web site.

Spokesman Jim O'Connor said Hull is a unique candidate because of his working-class background and the fact that he is not a career politician.

Voters usually have to choose between candidates who are good politicians but might not work in the best interest of the public, O'Connor said.

Hull worked on the assembly line of a cannery factory after finishing high school and founded the Hull Trading Co. which grew into a successful business.

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