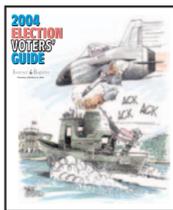


Delivery questions?
 Call 788-1440

INSIDE



VOTERS' GUIDE

A look at what's at stake on Tuesday.

Special section



FUN & FRIGHT

This time of year, entertainment comes with a special tingle in the spine.

A&E

FLYING'S FUTURE

What will happen with ATA in bankruptcy?

Page 23



NEW PEOPLE

Anthropologists discover a species of small humans who lived as recently as 12,000 years ago.

Page 2



WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today; high 68. A shower tonight; low 60.

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WEB SITE

www.sj-r.com

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Four straight for Boston

The Red Sox blank the Cardinals 3-0 to win the World Series for the first time since 1918.

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Al Behrman/The Associated Press

The Red Sox celebrate their victory over the Cardinals at Busch Stadium.

6,000 more flu shots planned

Eligibility rules loosened for county residents

By DEAN OLSEN
 STAFF WRITER

Using less-stringent rules for people seeking flu shots, Sangamon County health officials will run clinics today, Friday and Monday to distribute about 6,000 doses of vaccine to residents at highest risk of complications from influenza.

One of the most notable changes in the rules — compared with the

- Who's eligible, and where do they go? / Page 4
- The ethics of deciding who can get a shot / Page 20

flu-shot clinics conducted at eight sites Saturday — will allow all county residents 65 and older to be eligible for vaccine, not just senior citi-

zens with specific illnesses.

About 10,000 doses were available Saturday, but only 3,286 people showed up from the high-risk categories.

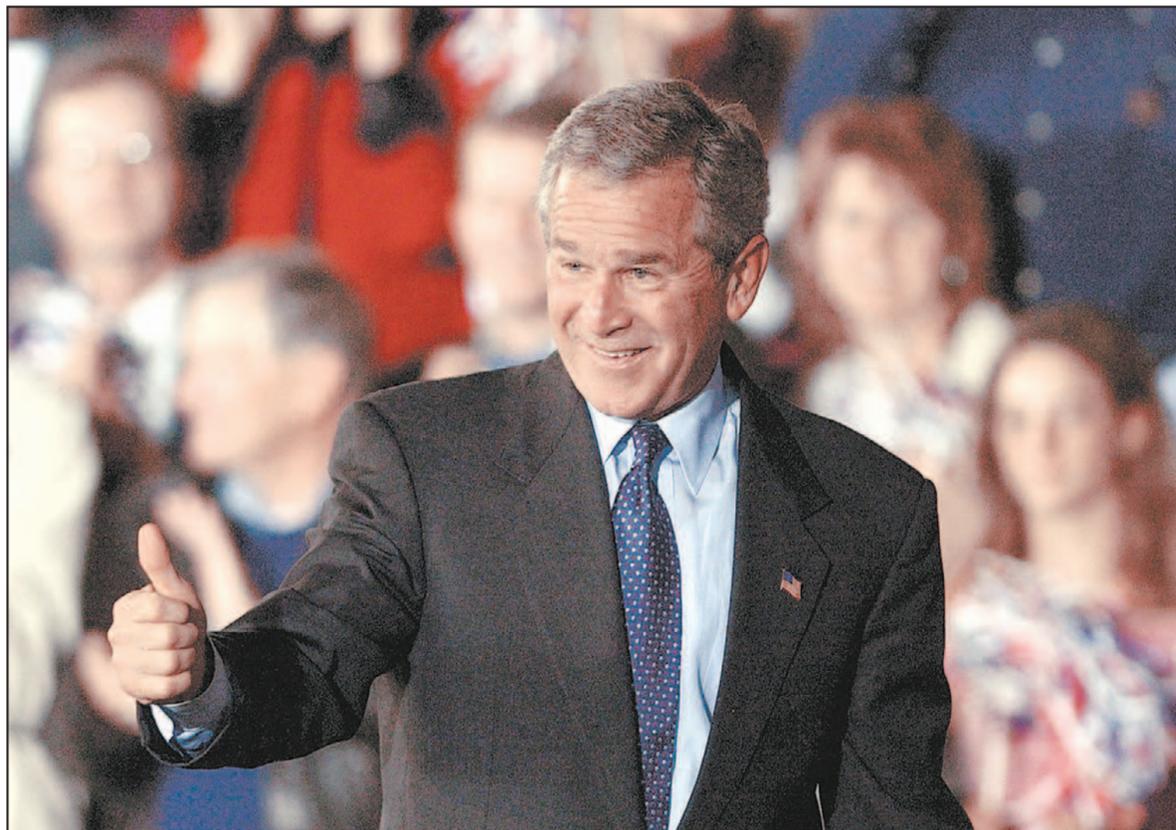
"We want to move forward as quickly as we can now," Isabel Manker, executive director of the Sangamon County Medical Society, said Wednesday.

Representatives of the medical society and the county's two local

health department decided to expand the eligibility to match the broad categories suggested this year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In general, those rules focus on the very young, people with chronic medical conditions and the elderly, as well as certain health-care work-

See SHOTS on page 4



Tony Dejak/The Associated Press

President Bush gives a thumbs up to supporters during an appearance Tuesday in Vienna, Ohio.

Bush seeks crossover votes

Kerry: With Iraq, president 'doesn't get it, and he can't fix it'

By DAVID ESPO and TOM RAUM
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITITZ, Pa. — President Bush summoned support from Democrats whose "dreams and goals are not found in the far left wing" of their own party on Wednesday in a late-campaign appeal for crossover votes. Democratic Sen. John Kerry said that when it comes to Iraq, the man in the White House "doesn't get it, and he can't fix it."

Bush has made a habit of "dodging and bobbing and weaving" when it comes to tons of missing explosives outside Baghdad, added the four-term Massachusetts senator, and Vice President Dick Cheney "is becoming the Chief Minister of Disinformation."

The president accused his rival of "wild charges" unbecoming a man with ambitions for the Oval Office.

Six days before the election, the



■ Voters are hot-tempered this year / Page 5

president and his Democratic challenger appeared before large late-October crowds as their aides and outside groups made strategic adjustments for the campaign's endgame.

Bush's high command put extra money into television commercials in Portland, Maine — a bid to claim victory in next-door New Hampshire, where recent polls show Kerry the narrow leader. The challenger as well as groups supporting him stepped up efforts in Hawaii, customarily a safe Democratic state, but too close for Kerry's comfort in recent surveys.

With polls reporting a high level of interest in the race for the White House, an Associated Press-Ipsos



Gerald Herbert/The Associated Press

Sen. John Kerry shakes hands upon arriving at a rally Wednesday in Albuquerque, N.M.

survey showed 11 percent of voters had already marked ballots in 32 states that permit early voting, and another 11 percent said they intended to do so.

"Lots of folks have made up their minds, and they figure that if they send in their ballots, the campaigns

will stop pestering them," said Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger in Washington.

Yet there were problems as millions tried to beat the Election Day

See CAMPAIGN on page 4

State workers' jobs, IDs in danger

Social Security numbers released with notice of cuts

By MARY MASSINGALE
 STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

Some state workers at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation are not only losing their jobs — they're also in danger of becoming victims of identity theft.

Included with some of the job-elimination notices distributed Monday to the 97 affected workers was a list containing more than 500 employees' Social Security numbers.

"It was an error in compiling the list," said Susan Hofer, a DFPR spokeswoman. "Only a small fraction of the packets went out with the Social Security numbers. We stopped distribution immediately and redacted the Social Security numbers. We are in the process of retrieving the erroneous list, and the employees are being cooperative."

Twenty-seven Springfield DFPR employees were notified on Monday that their jobs were being eliminated. In addition, union workers with seniority were told they could bump less-senior employees in about 70 other positions.

But about 20 of the notification packets handed out by human resources staff included a list of all 524 union workers employed by the department, including names, Social Security numbers, job title and code, seniority dates and counties of employment.

Tom McLaughlin, a regional director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said Wednesday that the union was in the process of filing a grievance over the release of personal information.

In an age of identity theft, any release of Social Security numbers is downright dangerous, according to a spokesman for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

"In the wrong hands, that Social Security number can be used to commit fraud," Laimutis Nargeleas said.

He said a quick Internet search of a Social Security number by a knowledgeable thief could yield other information about the person assigned to the number.

"If they can get your name, date of birth and Social Security number, they're off and running," Nargeleas said.

Rep. Raymond Poe, R-Springfield, said he's worried about the department's bungles.

"That's an abuse of power," Poe said.

Ironically, the release of the So-

See IDENTITY on page 4

U.S. military action signals showdown in Iraq

By ROBERT REID
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An uptick in airstrikes and other military moves point to an imminent showdown between U.S. forces and Sunni Muslim insurgents west of Baghdad — a decisive battle that could determine

■ CARE's director in Iraq pleads for her life / Page 3

whether the campaign to bring democracy and stability to Iraq can succeed.

American officials have not con-

firmed a major assault on Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi is near, but interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has warned Fallujah's leaders that force will be used if they do not hand over extremists, including terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

A similar escalation in U.S. mili-

tary actions and Iraqi government warnings occurred before a major offensive in Najaf forced militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to give up that holy city in late August. And U.S. and Iraqi

See IRAQ on page 4