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## American death toll hits 4,000

Roadside bomb kills 4 U.S. soldiers in Baghdad

BY ROBERT H. REID  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD** — A roadside bomb killed four U.S. soldiers in Baghdad on Sunday, the military said, pushing the overall American death toll in the five-year war to at least 4,000.

The grim milestone came on the same day that rockets and mortars pounded the U.S.-protected Green Zone, underscoring the fragile security situation and the resilience of both Sunni and Shiite extremist groups despite an overall lull in violence.

A Multi-National Division — Baghdad soldier also was wounded in the roadside bombing, which struck the soldiers' patrol vehicle about 10 p.m. in southern Baghdad, according to a statement.

Identities of those killed were withheld pending notification of relatives.

Navy Lt. Patrick Evans, a military spokesman, expressed condolences to all the families who have lost a loved one in Iraq, saying each death is "equally tragic."

"There have been some significant gains. However, this enemy is resilient and will not give up, nor will we," he said. "There's still a lot of work to be done."

Please see **4,000**, Page A7

## Bradbury speaking through the wall

'Fahrenheit 451' author accepting questions through today for live teleconference Thursday

BY SCOTT HILYARD  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEORIA** — Ever wonder how Ray Bradbury conjured up the society in his book "Fahrenheit 451" — the one where firefighters burn books instead of fighting fires? This week you'll have a chance to ask him.

Sort of. Bradbury will answer pre-submitted questions from readers and fans Thursday in a live teleconference shown at Neumiller Hall at Bradley University. The televised appearance is part of the Peoria Public Library's Big Read program, the "one-city, one-book" program that invites residents to read "Fahrenheit 451" and then participate in discussions about the book, among other events.

A \$19,000 grant from the federal National Endowment for the Arts helped pay for the electronic set-up and Bradbury's appearance.

Please see **BRADBURY**, Page A7

# 'Most meaningful Mass'



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**Darkness is punctuated as Bishop Daniel Jenky and the Rev. Stanley Deptula ignite a pan of fire in the lobby of St. Mary Cathedral during the start of Saturday night's Easter Vigil Mass.**

STORY BY MICHAEL MILLER ♦ PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM GERIK ♦ OF THE JOURNAL STAR

New members partake in ancient traditions at Easter Vigil Mass

**F**ire and water. Smoke and oil. Baptism. Confirmation. Communion.

St. Mary Cathedral's Easter Vigil Mass, the biggest and most dramatic of the year, brought ancient rituals and new members of the Roman Catholic Church together Saturday night in Peoria as 16 people were baptized and 55 confirmed, with many of them also making their first communion.

The two-and-a-half-hour Mass started at 8:15 p.m. in darkness with only a pan of fire in the lobby giving illumination.

After a special candle was lit, flame was passed along from Bishop Daniel Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria to priests and deacons to the faithful in the pews, bathing the cathedral in a soft glow. The tradition is representative of Jesus' Resurrection and message spreading outward.

A little later, seven men, seven women and two girls were baptized into the Catholic Church, with Jenky pouring water over their heads three times each, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

After the others in the full house renewed their baptismal vows, 55 people were confirmed by Jenky, who made the sign of the cross on their foreheads with oil as he said, "Be sealed with the Holy

Please see **MASS**, Page A5



**Jake Coutre of Colchester, a University of Illinois junior, bows in prayer with his sponsor Theresa Brokaw of Champaign after receiving the sacraments of baptism, communion and confirmation during Saturday's Easter Vigil Mass. "It was a way of finalizing the last year and a half," Coutre said. "I just feel like I've found my home."**

## State mulls smoothies for 6th-graders

Healthy-eating proposal allots more choices, calories for older grade schoolers

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES  
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

**SPRINGFIELD** — Fruit smoothies made with low-fat yogurt could be sold in the school cafeteria to sixth-graders, but not to fifth-graders, under a proposal from the Illinois State Board of Education.

To help students get healthy and stay that way, the board wants to revise rules governing the kind of food

that may be sold in elementary and middle school.

Board spokesman Matt Vanover said the proposal builds on the school "junk food ban" approved in 2006. That measure, spurred by concerns about rising rates of childhood obesity, barred Illinois' K-8 schools from selling candy and soda during the entire school day.

"I think this keeps that commitment to the healthy lifestyle, healthy eating ... that we want to instill in our youth, beginning at a young age," Vanover said.

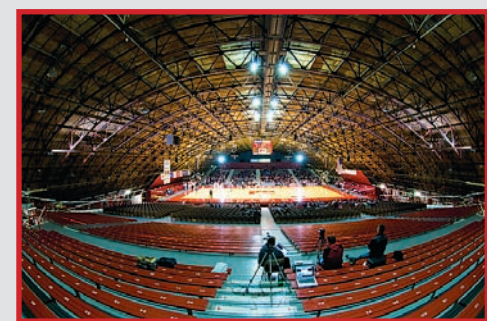
The revision makes a distinction between what's nutritionally appropriate for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, as compared with students in sixth through eighth grade. It does not apply to high school students.

Students in grades six, seven and eight would be allowed larger portion sizes and more calories, Vanover said.

The older students also would be given a wider range of options.

Please see **SMOOTHIES**, Page A7

## COMING TOMORROW



**Remembering Robertson: The Field House Project.** A special commemorative section about the 59-year-old arena on the Hilltop.

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