

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High: 72 Low: 48 Precip: 0%	High: 72 Low: 48 Precip: 0%	High: 78 Low: 48 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Kidnappers release seven hostages in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Kidnappers released two Italian aid workers and five other hostages Tuesday, raising hopes for at least 18 foreigners still in captivity. But insurgents showed no sign of easing their blood-soaked campaign against the U.S. presence in Iraq, staging a show of defiance in Samarra and striking twice with deadly force in Basra. It was unclear what prompted the two separate groups of kidnappers to release the hostages, or whether any ransom had been paid.

Strong earthquake rocks central California

PARKFIELD, Calif. — A strong earthquake struck Central California on Tuesday that was felt from San Francisco to the Los Angeles area. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The quake, which struck at 10:15 a.m. PDT, had a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 and was centered seven miles southeast of Parkfield, the town known as California's earthquake capital, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The area is 21 miles northeast of Paso Robles, scene of an earthquake that killed two people in December.

Hamas signals challenge to unseat Arafat

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinians marked the fourth anniversary of their uprising Tuesday amid signs that the extremist Hamas group

is preparing a political challenge to Yasser Arafat despite a series of Israeli military blows at the movement's leadership. Hamas published newspaper ads urging supporters to vote in upcoming municipal elections, saying "it's time for change." A top Hamas leader indicated the group might try to unseat Arafat in presidential elections, which have not yet been scheduled.

Crude oil prices surpass \$50 per barrel

Crude oil surpassed \$50 a barrel for the first time and analysts said Tuesday that prices could keep rising because of a sharp rise in global demand, tight supplies and threats to output in petroleum-producing nations such as Iraq and Nigeria. Homeowners and energy-intensive industries could feel the sting from high oil prices worsen as seasonal demand picks up this winter.

Soil samples show no nuclear activity in Iran

VIENNA, Austria — Initial tests of soil samples have revealed no signs of nuclear activities at a site in northern Iran that the United States says Tehran could have used to run secret uranium enrichment programs, diplomats said Tuesday.

However, the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, warned that the investigation of the Lavizan Shiyan site was not complete.

"We have still not looked at all results" of environmental sampling, one diplomat said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is investigating nearly two decades of covert nuclear activity by Iran. Tehran maintains its program is meant to generate electricity, but the United States claims it is a weapons program.

U.S. officials have linked the alleged razing of Lavizan Shiyan to the extensive remodeling of the Kalay-e Electric Co., just west of Tehran, two years ago before U.N. inspectors were allowed to

visit the latter site. Although buildings were repainted and otherwise sanitized, samples taken from Kalay-e showed traces of enriched uranium, which — at high levels — can be used to make nuclear warheads.

Nigerian militia threatens oil production

LAGOS, Nigeria — Militiamen trying to wrest control of the oil-rich Niger Delta threatened on Tuesday to launch a "full-scale armed struggle" on petroleum-pumping operations in Africa's largest crude oil

producing nation, urging foreign oil workers to leave the region.

A military spokesman, however, called the threats "empty." Major oil companies played the warnings down, saying they won't seriously affect exports and issuing no orders to pull out.

The threats, nevertheless, helped push world oil prices to historic highs of \$50 per barrel Tuesday.

Nigeria is the world's seventh-largest exporter and the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports.

"Any part of Nigeria, wherever

we have the opportunity to strike any target, we will strike," said militia leader Moujahid Dokubo-Asari, who heads the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force.

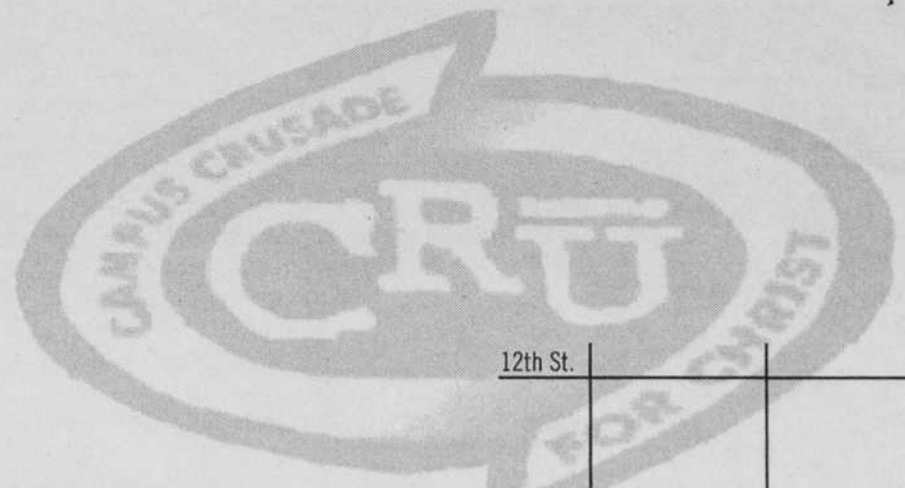
Dokubo-Asari, seen as a folk hero by many poor residents who complain they've never shared in the country's oil wealth, said foreign workers will be considered targets as of Oct. 1 — the 44th anniversary of Nigeria's independence from Britain.

— The Associated Press

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Resource Conservation Information for Students and Staff

Ten Things You Can Do To Reduce UO's Environmental Impact

1 Report Wasted Energy and Water

Contact Facilities Services at 346-2293 to report any drips or lights left on.

2 Reduce Paper Use

3 Turn Off Lights When Not In Use

4 Turn Off Monitor When Not In Office Or Room

5 Buy Products Containing Recycled Material

6 Bike, Walk, Carpool, Or Take The Bus

Remember, LTD is FREE to the UO Community... Just show your UO I.D.

7 Conserve Water

8 Regulate Your Own Temperature

9 Avoid Disposable Products

10 Recycle Your Used Materials

By recycling 1 ton of paper, you save:

- 17 trees
- 6953 gallons of water
- 462.57 gallons of oil
- 586.5 pounds of air pollution
- 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4077.45 KW/hr of energy*

* Provided by Weyerhaeuser's Environmental Savings Report

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