

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
High: 59 Low: 35 Precip: 20%	High: 58 Low: 35 Precip: 20%	High: 60 Low: 35 Precip: 20%

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.
In Washington, the CIA said it was looking at the tape in an effort to determine its authenticity.

Lebanon to cooperate with U.N. investigation

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon, facing mounting domestic and international pressure to find the assassins of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, said Sunday it will cooperate with U.N. investigators but stuck to its rejection of a full-fledged international inquiry.

Hariri was killed a week ago Monday in a massive bomb explosion as he was driven through central Beirut. The blast killed 16 others and wounded more than 100.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Interior Minister Suleiman Franjeh said Sunday that Lebanon welcomes the help of an international investigating team, provided that it comes within the framework of Lebanese sovereignty.

The Lebanese decision to work with the U.N. team but not allow it to control the investigation raises tension with the world body, which also is pressuring the nation's main powerbroker, Syria, to withdraw troops.

Sinn Fein leaders also command IRA

DUBLIN, Ireland — The Irish government on Sunday publicly identified three of Sinn Fein's top figures — including party leader Gerry Adams — as members of the Irish Republican Army.

The government's blunt declaration indicated it no longer would tolerate Adams' protestations that his party should not be held accountable for IRA actions. The shift is intended to force the illegal IRA to disarm fully and disband, or risk the marginalization of the legal Sinn Fein.

Tensions are growing even higher after the IRA's alleged \$50 million robbery of a Belfast bank and an unfolding investigation into IRA money laundering. The Irish government says Sinn Fein leaders are involved in both.

— The Associated Press

Start taxes now, waiting may cost

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The deadline is the same every year and every year it sneaks up on you.

Getting to work early on that tax return, due April 15, will not only ease some stress but also prevent some costly mistakes.

"Start now. Start early," said Mark Steber, vice president of tax resources for Jackson Hewitt Tax Service.

If this is the year to finally end the procrastinating, stop focusing on the April 15 deadline, suggests Michelle Tullier, author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Overcoming Procrastination."

Think instead about breaking the task down into smaller jobs. Set a date and time to do each one.

"Don't wait for the motivation or desire to do your taxes because it may never come," she said.

If you are one of the millions of taxpayers who ask the Internal Revenue Service every year for an extension, ask yourself if you really need the extra time or if you just label yourself a perpetual procrastinator.

The number of people who request an automatic extension creeps up annually, reaching more than 8.5 million last year.

At the minimum, everyone needs to start by pulling together the paperwork that applies to their tax situation, Steber said.

There are dozens of records and receipts that might yield tax benefits, including unreimbursed work expenses, charitable donations, tuition payments, mortgage and home equity loan documents, medical bills, home office expenses and union dues.

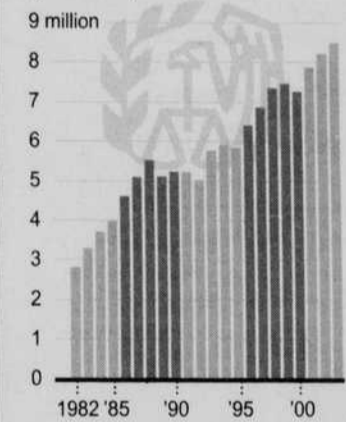
Assembling these documents can get your tax preparer started early. For the do-it-yourself types, avoid the temptation to gather all the documentation and plow through your entire job in one miserable Saturday.

"Focus on do dates, as in D-O, not due dates, as in D-U-E," Tullier said.

TAXING TIME

Tax extensions

From 1982-2003 the number of automatic four-month extensions on taxes has increased significantly.



SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service AP

"Schedule actual dates and times to tackle each step in the process leading up to April 15."

Failing to file a return can be quite costly, even more so in most cases than failing to pay taxes owed.

There is no penalty for failing to file a tax return if you are due a refund, but taxpayers risk losing a refund forever if they wait too long. The IRS, by law, cannot pay refunds claimed more than three years after the tax return's due date.

The consequences of delay also might include mistakes made while rushing through the task. That means more time and effort spent on tax tasks.

Some of the most common errors are simple ones, the IRS says, but they can cause a return to be rejected or can delay the payment of a refund. They can even tip the tax return from a refund to a balance due and lead to interest and penalties.

Advertisement
Oregon Trashing The Competition
BY VICTORIA McDOUGAL

The UO has come in ahead of the defending RecycleMania champion, Miami University of Ohio after two weeks of competition in this 10-week contest.

After a disappointing second place finish in 2003, the competitive field has intensified this season. Past champions Miami and Bowling Green State continue to be title contenders. First-time competitor and UO rival, Oregon State continues to knock on the door and stay in the top three.

"This is very exciting. By coming in first two weeks in a row it shows our awesome first week wasn't a fluke. We can really win this," said Housing Recycling Coordinator Robyn Hathcock.

So far the UO offense has taken the lead over 32 schools, now it is time for UO residence halls' defense to play a major part. Every scrap of paper and soda can counts when the contest is this close. Join us in trashing the competition!



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