Governor officially launches re-election campaign,renews no-tax-hike pledge after some prodding

By DOUG FINKE
STATE CAPITAL, SPRINGFIELD

Gov. Rod Blagojevich formally launched his re-election campaign Sunday and renewed his pledge not to raise income or sales taxes during a second term.

Blagojevich, who promised in his first term not to raise income or sales taxes during the current term, didn't rule out that promise during 10 minutes of speech to about 250 supporters at the Lincoln Park pavilion.

Asked about the omission after the speech, Blagojevich at first did not specifically say he would not raise income or sales taxes during a second term.

"I did, but I would have to ask the hard-working people for more of their hard-earned money from their paychecks every two weeks," Blagojevich said it was unclear back then. "I believe it is not today, I'm not changed on it."

Asked to elaborate, Blagojevich removed the sentence finally, as he was climbing into his car to leave the pavilion. The statement "I did not raise income or sales taxes if he got a second term." "I'm not going to rise now to the lowest-feeding people of Illinois," Blagojevich said. "I won't do it."

Blagojevich joins two of the Republican candidates to say he won't raise income or sales taxes during the current term and state. Sen. Bill Brady, R-Bloomington, has been the least taxes Illinois. Democrat Ron Gubiec hasn't made a pledge, but says he doesn't have the need to raise taxes. Treasurer Pat Quinn has.

See CAMPAIGN on page 4

Photography by T.J. Sallent/The State Journal-Register.

A Karen Jensen holds her 4-year-old daughter, Anna, on Sunday after being presented with a model and a ribbon in honor of her husband, Bill, who was killed in a skiing accident in October 2004. Cystic fibrosis enthusiasts and community members joined Sunday in the annual Tour de Groundhog at New Salem State Historic Site. Bill Jensen was an avid runner and member of Team MACK.

A Cyclists prepare to race while a photo of Bill Jensen serves as a reminder of those who loved the outdoors. "Bill was a committed bike rager and an important team member," according to Ted Mims, chair of the UIS computer science department. "That's the emphasis is on defense, not hacking. But not surprisingly, those who've gone through the program, Mims says. "We're not trying to turn out hackers, or whatever." "If you offer a class on ethical hacking, but looking for the skill." "There's more to the program than just the classes. Students in online and classroom formats receive hands-on exercises in cracking passwords, breaking encryption and understanding the hands-on exercises. That's the focus of the program," according to Ted Mims, chair of the UIS computer science department.

The UIS program aims for hackers to help protect their networks from information technology professionals to small-business owners — from college professors who's apt to go out to a community college not looking for a defense specialist," Rose says. "That's the emphasis is on defense, not hacking. But not surprisingly, those who've gone through the program, Mims says. "We're not trying to turn out hackers, or whatever." "If you offer a class on ethical hacking, but looking for the skill." "There's more to the program than just the classes. Students in online and classroom formats receive hands-on exercises in cracking passwords, breaking encryption and understanding the hands-on exercises. That's the focus of the program," according to Ted Mims, chair of the UIS computer science department.

The UIS program aims for hackers to help protect their networks from information technology professionals to small-business owners — from college professors who's apt to go out to a community college not looking for a defense specialist," Rose says. "That's the emphasis is on defense, not hacking. But not surprisingly, those who've gone through the program, Mims says. "We're not trying to turn out hackers, or whatever." "If you offer a class on ethical hacking, but looking for the skill." "There's more to the program than just the classes. Students in online and classroom formats receive hands-on exercises in cracking passwords, breaking encryption and understanding the hands-on exercises. That's the focus of the program," according to Ted Mims, chair of the UIS computer science department.