



Spruce Creek coach remembers Desert Storm  
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The Daytona Beach  
**News-Journal**  
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**SATURDAY**  
 MARCH 22, 2003

**TODAY'S FORECAST**

Try to enjoy this beautiful spring day.  
 High: Low 80s. Low: Low 60s. **PAGE 8C**

**NCAA TOURNAMENT**

Gators whip Bearcats  
 in NCAA's first round  
**SPORTS, PAGE 1B**

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# Bombardment shakes Iraqi will

## 2 Marines die as troops secure key cities, oil fields



New York Times/TYLER HICKS

Fires rage in Baghdad on Friday after U.S. and British warplanes began an accelerated campaign of bombing that included about 1,500 strike missions. Northern Iraq cities were also hit, and nearly 1,000 Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

By **DAVID ESPO**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

The United States launched a ferocious, around-the-clock aerial assault on military targets in Baghdad and other cities Friday, and ground troops penetrated 100 miles into Iraq.

After an overnight reprieve, the bombing of Baghdad resumed at first light today.

Coalition commanders accepted the surrender of the 8,000-member 51st Iraqi Infantry Division near the southern city of Basra, officials said, and U.S. and British troops encountered little resistance as they seized Iraq's only port city and moved to secure key oil fields.

Other units moved into western airfield complexes where Iraq was believed to have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel, and possibly weapons of mass destruction as well.

"We're going at it hammer and tongs," said Capt. Mark Fox, back aboard the USS Constellation after a bombing run that was part of a widely heralded Pentagon effort to "shock and awe" the Iraqis.

Military commanders reported that two Marines were killed by enemy fire, the first coalition combat deaths in the 3-day-old Operation Iraqi Freedom. One died trying to secure an oil pumping station; the other fell in the battle for Umm Qasr, the port city taken after a fight.

Asked whether Iraqis plan a counterattack, Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said, "Our leadership and our armed forces will decide this, in what guarantees the defeat of those mercenaries, God willing."

SEE **IRAQI**, PAGE 8A

## Allied onslaught forces thousands to surrender

By **ELLEN KNICKMEYER**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SOUTHERN IRAQ** — Hordes of Iraqi soldiers, underfed and overwhelmed, surrendered Friday in the face of a state-of-the-art allied assault. An entire division gave itself up to the advancing allied forces, U.S. military officials said.

The division — the 51st Infantry Division, 8,000 men and as many as 200 tanks, a key unit in the defense of the southern city of Basra — was the largest defection in a day when Saddam Hussein's forces showed signs of crumbling.

The surrendering soldiers were not the fabled and well-fed Republican Guardsmen who anchor Saddam's defense — for the most part, these were a rag-tag army, many of them draftees, often in T-shirts. Their small arms could accomplish little

SEE **SURRENDER**, PAGE 13A



Associated Press/LAURENT REBOURS

A U.S. Marine keeps his rifle ready as Iraqi soldiers surrender near the southern Iraqi border city of Safwan on Friday.

## America at War

▶ Public approval in the U.S. has surged for Bush's war effort  
**PAGE 9A**

▶ U.S. intelligence struggles to determine Saddam's fate  
**PAGE 9A**

▶ Combat losses bring U.S. casualties to 6  
**PAGE 8A**



▶ 2 killed in Yemen as war protests intensify around the world  
**PAGE 9A**

## War's effects begin to trickle into area economy

By **THOMAS S. BROWN**  
 BUSINESS WRITER

As tanks raced toward Baghdad on Friday, Daytona Beach tourism promoters halted their national television advertising, uncertain whether it's the right time to encourage long-distance travel.

But for short-distance travel, an area gasoline distributor and station operator said gas prices are expected to come down some.

Thousands of college students contin-

ued arriving for Spring Break, a ritual that pumps nearly \$200 million into the local economy. Only about 5 percent of the students had canceled their travel plans, mostly because of military obligations, hotel operators reported.

At many companies in the Volusia-Flagler area, employees caught glimpses of the Iraqi war on television sets but

SEE **ECONOMY**, PAGE 13A

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### Local Businesses Feel Pinch

- Daytona Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau suspends national tourism promotion for two weeks.
- A sharp drop in oil prices could lead to a decline in area gas prices.
- College students continue arriving for Spring Break, but seem more subdued this year.

- War uncertainty seems to be slowing down investments in area manufacturing plants.
- Security has tightened at Daytona Beach International Airport, but no cutback in flights.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose more than 235 points. **PAGE 14A**

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