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Complete March Madness coverage



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**IT'S ALL IN SPORTS**

# The Idaho Statesman

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## ADA EDITION

Breaking news updates  
IdahoStatesman.com

### NORTHWEST CUTS A BOISE FLIGHT

One of Northwest Airlines' three daily flights between Boise and Minneapolis will fall victim to the 4,900 job cuts and 12 percent reduction in flights, the company announced Friday.

IN BUSINESS



### Plaza officials aim to catch vandals

University Plaza Office Complex officials hope new surveillance cameras and a cash reward will help stop vandals who have caused more than \$100,000 in damage since December.

Local, page 1

### USS Boise may play role in gulf

Some of the missiles fired on Iraq may be coming from the USS Boise.

Local, page 1

### IdaCorp Energy president to quit

Rich Riazzi, the man who helped bring billions of dollars to IdaCorp Inc., will step down from his post at the end of the month.

Business, page 1

### Inflation in Boise increases 1.1%

In Boise, overall inflation rose 1.1 percent for February, thanks to a 6.3 percent climb in transportation expenses, according to Wells Fargo's monthly report on local living costs.

Business, page 1

### Man thanks team for saving his life

Steve Fuchs returned to a Boise hospital Friday to thank the trauma team that helped save his life.

Local, page 1

### Ada emergency program changed

The Ada City-County Emergency Management program will come back under the wing of local governments, county commissioners said this week.

Local, page 3

### COMING TOMORROW



New Census 2000 results show big increases in the number of commuters from rural Idaho counties crowding local roads and highways to get to jobs in the Boise metro area.

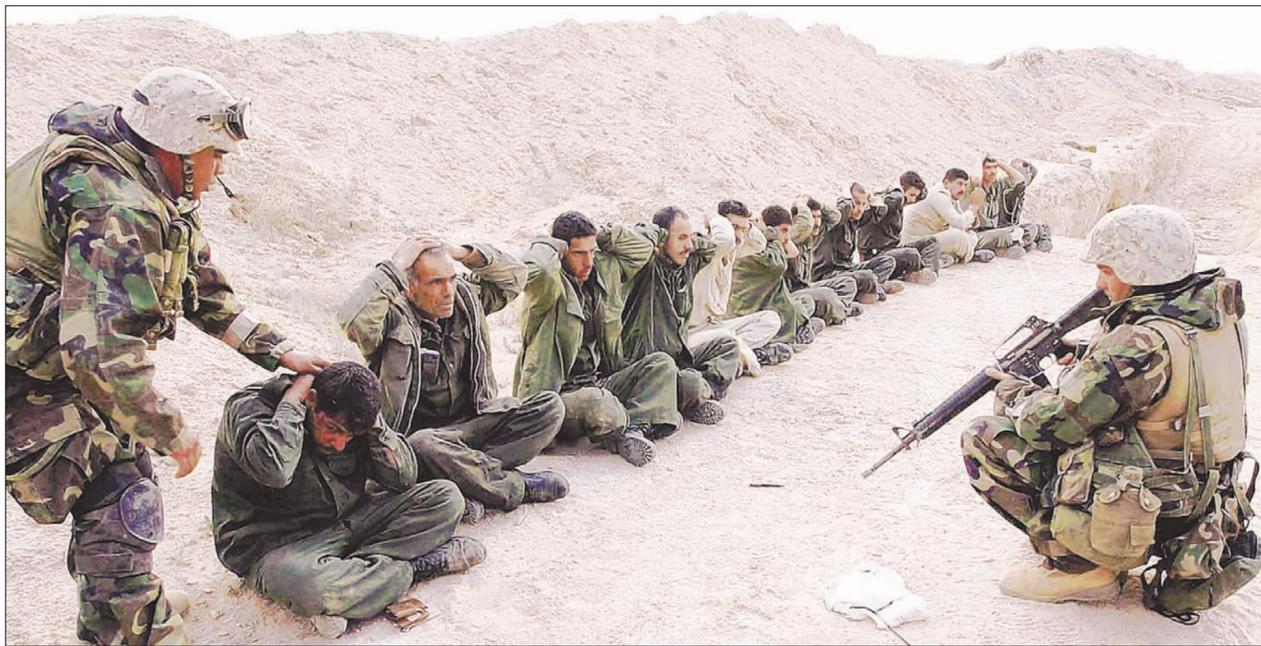
### WEATHER

Rain  
High 62  
Low 40

10 sections, 120 pages  
139th year, 240th issue  
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## Thousands of Iraqis surrender as bombs hit Baghdad U.S.: IRAQ IN DISARRAY



**IRAQI SOLDIERS SURRENDER** U.S. Marines take Iraqi prisoners Friday after engaging in a gunbattle with them near Az Zubayr in southern Iraq. *Laura Rauch / The Associated Press*



**BAGHDAD BURNS** A government building burns after heavy bombardment of Baghdad by U.S.-led forces Friday. *Jerome Delay / The Associated Press*



**THANKFUL FOR TROOPS** An Iraqi woman welcomes U.S. Marines as they enter the southern border city of Safwan on Friday. The white flag behind her was raised for safety reasons. *Story, page 5*  
*Laurent Rebours / The Associated Press*

### Analysis: Troops make daring trip

Without friendly troops for protection, a few columns of U.S. troops are in a risky race toward Baghdad. *Page 3*

### Is worst of war yet to come?

Two days into the fighting, what is most remarkable may be what has not happened: no chemical or germ attacks, no Scud missile launches, no strikes on Israel. *Page 4*

### Bush heads to Camp David

President Bush is trying to stick with his routine, so he's spending the weekend at Camp David. He will, however, meet with his Cabinet to discuss war. *Page 4*

### Bombs blast into quiet city night

As a nervous calm settled over Baghdad on Friday night, the American-led onslaught began. *Page 5*

### Thousands of soldiers give up

Thousands of Iraqi soldiers surrendered to allied forces on Friday. *Page 5*

### Online

at IdahoStatesman.com  
Get updates on action in Iraq, interactive graphics about the region and more

## Rumsfeld: Saddam's regime 'is starting to lose control'

7 presumed dead after two British helicopters collide

By David Esposito  
*The Associated Press*

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

The ancient capital's skyline exploded in balls of flame, leaving Saddam Hussein's Old Palace compound and other symbols of his government ablaze.

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.

After an overnight reprieve, a huge explosion shook the center of Baghdad, a city of 5 million, before dawn today, and aircraft could be heard overhead. A halo of smoke hung in the sky.

Units moved into western airfield complexes where Iraq

was believed to have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel and possibly weapons of mass destruction.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, in a Pentagon news corps briefing Friday afternoon, urged Iraqi officers to surrender.

"To the commanders and soldiers of the Iraqi forces, I urge you in the strongest possible terms," the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. "Do the honorable thing. Stop fighting that you may live to enjoy a free Iraq where you and your children can grow and prosper."



**Gen. Richard Myers**  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

## House Republicans nix Kempthorne's sales tax plan

Clock is ticking for lawmakers to produce a budget

By Gregory Hahn  
*The Idaho Statesman*

House Republicans on Friday killed Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's plan to raise sales taxes, leaving the state without a plan to cover its bills after the Legislature's 75th day.

The 12-7 vote came after about two hours of testimony, most of it in favor of Kempthorne's plan to raise sales taxes from 5 percent to 6.5 percent.

The decision leaves the tax question in the hands of House leaders, who now hope to convince the Senate that targeted tax hikes on tobacco or alcohol can cover the gap. House leadership also hopes to convince Kempthorne that public education can survive on about

the same budget as it had this year.

Time is running out, though, for lawmakers to raise money quickly enough to get through this fiscal year. This week, the lawmakers dragged beyond the adjournment days of seven of the past eight sessions.

The testimony Friday largely focused less on the tax increase than on the cuts it would prevent.

Parents, educators, university administrators, ad-

vocates for people with disabilities and others asked the committee to pass the tax increases to avoid further cuts in education and health care.

"I'm afraid a thorough education would become a basic education," said Elaine Clegg, a mother of five who works for Idaho Smart

See Taxes on page 7

Inside  
Idaho can't run up a deficit like the feds can, page 7

"It is not an exaggeration to say that removing 3,000 people from life-sustaining services would result in some deaths."

**JIM BAUGH** of Boise, who lobbies for people with disabilities and who has a disabled child. He also said more cuts to Medicaid will cut services people need

"I would be forced to get in my car in Nampa and do all my shopping across the state line."

**KERRY HOLBRET** of Nampa, who collects Social Security disability payments and said sales tax increases would hurt people like him on fixed incomes

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