

# THE MORNING CALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003 •

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50¢



Sunny  
77° | 52°  
Forecast, B8

## BRIEFING

**SADDAM HUSSEIN'S** hometown of Tikrit fell Monday with unexpectedly light resistance, the last Iraqi city to succumb to overpowering U.S.-led ground and air forces. **A1**

**THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION** said Monday it would consider diplomatic, economic and other measures against Syria for allegedly providing refuge to fleeing Iraqi officials and testing chemical weapons. **A1**

**A GUNMAN** with an AK-47 rifle opened fire in a New Orleans high school gym Monday, killing a 15-year-old boy and wounding three teenage girls. Four suspects, ranging in age from 15 to 19, were arrested in a sweep of the neighborhood. **A7**

**THE BOOK** of genetic instructions for the human body is complete to an accuracy of 99.99 percent, an international research team said Monday. **A8**

**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS** and patient advocates have sued to overturn new medical privacy rules that took effect nationwide Monday, claiming the regulations do more harm than good. **A9**

**A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE** for Allentown City Council says Mayor Roy C. Afflerbach's claim that serious crime declined during the first two months of 2003 compared to a year ago was premature because if left out February crimes. **B1**

**MICHELLE MARCINIAK**, the former Central Catholic and University of Tennessee star, was hired recently as full-time assistant women's basketball coach at the University of South Carolina. **C1**

**TODAY** is the deadline for filing 2002 tax returns, and even those asking for an extension must pay their taxes by April 15 to avoid penalties. **D1**

# Pentagon: Major combat done; troops easily capture Tikrit

Fighting winds down; American forces seize Saddam's hometown with little resistance.

By David Espo  
Of The Associated Press

Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit fell Monday with unexpectedly light resistance, the last Iraqi city to succumb to overpowering U.S.-led ground and air forces. A senior Pentagon general said "major combat engagements" probably are over in

the 26-day-old war.

As fighting wound down, Pentagon officials disclosed it is pulling two aircraft carriers from the Persian Gulf. At the same time, Iraqi power brokers looked ahead to discussions on a postwar government at a U.S.-arranged meeting set for today.

"I would anticipate that the major combat engagements are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters at the Pentagon. Tikrit fell with no sign of the ferocious last stand by Saddam loyalists that some military planners had feared.

Secretary of State Colin

Powell hinted at economic or diplomatic sanctions against Syria, saying the government is developing a weapons of mass destruction program and helping Iraqis flee the dying regime. Syrian officials denied the charges.

Looting eased in Baghdad after days of plundering at government buildings, hospitals and an antiquities museum, and group of religious and civil opposition leaders met in the capital to plan efforts at renewing power, water, security and other vital services.

American forces found

WAR PAGE A3

## War is largely settled, but questions are not

By Tom Raum  
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON | By any normal gauge, the war with Iraq is over. Saddam Hussein's government is gone, all key cities are seized, major combat is winding down and two aircraft carriers are going home.

Yet major questions remain, including the whereabouts of Saddam and any weapons of

mass destruction and whether Iraqis can govern themselves after a quarter-century of one-man rule.

## ANALYSIS

The role of the United Nations or individual nations in Iraq's future also is up in the

ANALYSIS PAGE A3



Joseph Barrak Agence France Presse

MARINES WAVE the American and Iraqi flags in front of al-Faruq Palace in Tikrit, Iraq. U.S. forces took control of Saddam Hussein's hometown Monday.

## Bush toughens talk against Syria

Administration says nation must alter its stance on Iraq.

By William Douglas  
Special to The Morning Call

WASHINGTON | The Bush administration stepped up its rhetoric against Syria Monday, saying it would weigh diplomatic, economic and other measures against Damascus for allegedly providing refuge to

fleeing Iraqi officials and testing chemical weapons.

While officials at the White House, State Department and Defense Department sternly stated that Syria must modify its behavior, they stopped short of saying the United States would use military force if its concerns weren't addressed.

"I think what's next is Syria needs to seriously ponder the implications of their actions in terms of harboring Iraqis who

SYRIA PAGE A3



Frank Wiese The Morning Call

## A symbol of support

Pennsylvania's first lady, Midge Rendell (left), and Mary Labert, chairwoman of the McAdoo Community Civic Association, tie yellow ribbons on trees at the governor's residence in Harrisburg. Story, **A9**.

## INSIDE

- Syria strongly denies harboring Saddam's deputies. **A4**
- Israel hopes United States makes Syria oust Hezbollah. **A4**
- U.S. hoping surrender of scientists helps lead coalition forces to chemical weapons. **A5**
- Saddam's son's palace packed with pornography, expensive liquor and Cuban cigars. **A5**
- Reconstruction of Iraq promises to be long, tough and tricky. **A5**
- Iraqis turn out in force to help U.S. restore water, power and order to their country. **A5**
- North Korea, Iran appear "shocked and awed" and ready to cooperate. **A6**

## TODAY

in a.m. MAGAZINE



## These are eggs to dye for

Ways to decorate Easter eggs are multiplying like bunnies. Color is only the beginning. Stickers, sparkles and blow-on designs help you egg-spress yourself. **E1**

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# Rendell sidesteps critics, pushes education plan

Governor accentuates the positives in his proposal to shift taxes for school funding. But questions linger about effects of the changes.

By John M.R. Bull  
and John L. Micek  
Of The Morning Call

WILKES-BARRE | Gov. Ed Rendell had seniors eating out of his hand as he pitched his property tax and education reform plan to them here the other day.

Heads nodded. Murmurs

of approval rose from the gray-haired retirees at a senior center.

"I think it made sense," said Irene Berger of Wilkes-Barre. "I think he's trying very hard."

Tell your state lawmakers you approve, Rendell urged.

The pep rally at Scranton went just as well. The march-

ing band played. Teens and preteens cheered as Rendell spelled out how his proposal would mean smaller class sizes, new equipment and better schools overall.

Tell your parents you want to be part of Rendell's vision for the future, he urged.

The battle for the hearts

and minds of Pennsylvania is well under way, with the new governor taking his message to the people.

So far, he's played to mostly receptive audiences.

Rendell's strategy is simple: The plan needs the approval of a historically leery

RENDELL PAGE A2

—adv.—  
Beautiful Easter Flowers  
Roths 2126 Tilghman st. 9-5

—adv.—  
Beautiful Easter Egg Colored Mums & Tulips 5 colors in same pot.  
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