



Happy Halloween Local events B2



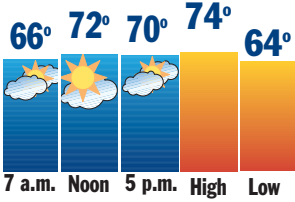
# Corpus Christi Caller Times

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Thursday, October 31, 2002 • City edition

### Dale Nelson's Forecast



### Water Supply

Combined reservoir level: 100%  
Weather Page B14

### Quick Read



#### On Sunday

An exploration of Corpus Christi architecture in a special section.

#### Regent censured

The Del Mar College Board of Regents voted 6-0 to censure fellow Regent Dorothy Spann related to the placement of political signs on campus. Local, Page B1

#### Old Courthouse

The Nueces County Commissioners Court voted 4-1 to continue efforts to renovate parts of the old County Courthouse. Local, Page B1

#### A precious gift

With the help of Clinica Corpus Christi, the residents of Patzun, Guatemala, now have a well that produces clear, safe water. Local, Page B4



#### Unwanted adventures

Anxious students from Driscoll Middle School, which received serious damage in last week's storm, returned to classes at other schools on Wednesday. Local, Page B1

#### OPINION

#### Endorsements

Proposition 3, which would shift the city to strong mayor government, poses a risk to minority voting rights and should be rejected. Editorials, Page A10

## Music, marching, mud



David Pellerin/Caller-Times

The Hondo Owl Band performs at the Sinton Pirate Stadium in Sinton on Wednesday for the Area E 3A Marching Band Contest. Twenty-five high school bands participated in the event, which included students from school districts from near San Antonio to Port Isabel. The competition had been postponed from last week because of the stormy weather. See story, Page B1

# Perry 50%, Sanchez 35%

### The undecideds are about equal to the difference

By MONICA WOLFSON  
Scripps Howard Texas Poll Syndicate  
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While Gov. Rick Perry's approval ratings continue to decline, he has maintained his lead over his opponent, Democrat Tony Sanchez, by as much as 15 percentage points, according to The Scripps Howard Texas Poll.

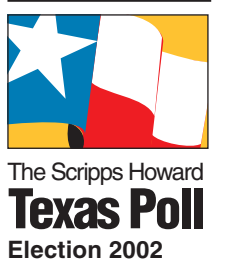
The poll also showed that Republicans lead in all statewide races, except for the battle for lieutenant governor, which is a statistical tie.

If the election for governor were held today, 50 percent of likely voters would choose Perry compared with 35 percent who favor Sanchez, a Laredo businessman. Fourteen percent are undecided. In August, 42 percent preferred Perry while 28 percent picked Sanchez.

Texans are almost split in their views about Perry's job performance. While 44 percent say he has done an excellent or good job as governor, 43 percent say his performance has been fair or poor.

"People are looking (at the governor's race) as the lesser of two evils," said Bruce Buchanan, political science professor at the University of Texas. "Voters are not enamored with Perry, but people don't see Sanchez as the answer. I think that's it in a nutshell."

Voters can dislike a candidate and yet still vote for him, said Allan Saxe, political science professor at the University of Texas. Please see POLL/A4



Also see Poll results .....A4

## Russia admits narcotic use in raid

### Doctors say antidote for Fentanyl was not readily available for patients

By MICHAEL WINES  
New York Times News Service

MOSCOW — Russia acknowledged on Wednesday that it pumped an aerosol version of the powerful painkiller, Fentanyl, into a Moscow theater to end a hostage crisis last Saturday, breaking a four-day silence on the drug's identity that had drawn mounting criticism in the United States and Europe.

Russia's health minister, Yuri L. Shevchenko, identified the gas as the civilian death toll from the 57-hour hostage siege rose by two to 120. All but two of the victims apparently died from effects of the Fentanyl derivative.

But at an evening news conference, Shevchenko bluntly rejected statements by some, including the U.S. ambassador here, that Russian secrecy over the nature of the gas may have delayed lifesaving aid to some hostages.

"I officially declare that chemical substances of the kind banned under international conventions on chemical weapons were not used in the course of the special operations," he said. "To neutralize terrorists, a compound based on Fentanyl derivatives was used."

In broadcast remarks, he repeated Russian assertions that the gas "cannot in itself be called lethal," and that hostages who succumbed to the gas died because they

Please see RUSSIA/A4



Associated Press

Child actors of the musical 'Nord-Ost' attend a funeral Wednesday for their 13-year-old fellow actor Arseny Kurilenko, who died in the Moscow theater hostage crisis. Russia said Wednesday that a derivative of the painkiller Fentanyl was used in the raid.

## Key ministers resign, reducing Sharon's power

By JAMES BENNETT  
New York Times News Service

JERUSALEM — Splitting apart the coalition government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after 19 months, ministers of the Labor Party resigned on Wednesday over their accusation that Sharon was favoring Israel's settlers at the expense of its poor in his proposed budget.

The break, which is almost certain to drive the Israeli



Sharon

Please see MIDEAST/A8

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## today's INDEX

SECTIONS  
News.....A  
Local.....B  
Classified.....C  
Sports.....D

CONTENT  
Arts & Entertainment.....B9  
Bridge.....B10  
Business.....D9  
Calendar.....B2

Comics.....B12-13  
Crosswords.....B12-13  
Dear Abby.....B13  
Deaths.....C11  
Editorials.....A10

Funerals.....C12  
Horoscope.....B10  
Movies.....B11  
Texas.....A6,B8  
TV.....B11

