

# The Dallas Morning News

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COLLEGE/NFL PREVIEW 50 cents

## U.S. OR BUST

Bug-eating and scary stunts are the ticket for Hispanic TV contestants seeking green cards.

ARTSDAY, 11E



## Big leap for Frogs

TCU knows a loss to Texas Tech would end any hopes of playing in a BCS bowl.

SECTION H



Sunny, hot



High: 96 Low: 68  
5-day outlook, 10B

### WORLD

#### Russia may strike against terrorists

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his government is "seriously preparing" for pre-emptive strikes against terrorists. 23A

### SPORTSDAY

#### U.S. in the rough as Ryder Cup begins

Europe dominated the U.S. team on the Ryder Cup's first day, and the pairing of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson was shut out. 8C

Also: U.S. captain Hal Sutton has his work cut out for him, columnist Kevin Sherrington writes. 1C

### COMING SUNDAY

Ben Spencer has spent 17 years in prison for a deadly robbery he says he didn't commit. A nonprofit advocacy group says it has found new evidence that another Dallas man confessed to the crime. Will he get a new trial?

### METRO

#### Probation stiffened in road rage case

A Mesquite man who received probation for a deadly road rage crash was handed additional restrictions — including vehicle limits and jail time — by a Dallas judge. 1B

Also: Angela Hudachek's attorney blasted Child Protective Services for taking custody of her 12-year-old daughter after the girl's abduction by her stepfather. 1B

### RELIGION

#### What effect will young priests have?

The emergence of young conservative priests has set off a flurry of debate about what effect they will have on the nation's Catholics. 1G

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# Ivan's path of ruin spreads north, east



PATRICK SCHNEIDER/Charlotte Observer

Contractor Gary Scott (right) helps Sam Capps of the Charlotte Fire Department lead people rescued from homes flooded by remnants of Hurricane Ivan in Franklin, N.C. Eight people were killed across the state.

## Florida digs out; rain, tornadoes strike from Georgia to Ohio

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — As shell-shocked Floridians began to clean up after Ivan gave the state its third hurricane pummeling in five weeks, the remnants of the storm continued on a path of destruction Friday across a wide swath of the eastern United States.

Hurricane Ivan was the deadliest storm to hit the United States since Floyd in 1999. It was blamed for 70 deaths in the Caribbean and at least 38 in the United States, 14 of them in Florida.

The storm weakened after coming ashore with 130-mph winds early Thursday, but continued to spin off tornadoes and drenched an area from Georgia to Ohio.

Though no longer a hurricane, Ivan was responsible for the deaths of eight people in North Carolina, four in Georgia and one in Tennessee. More than 1 million people were without power across eight states.

More than 8 inches of rain in

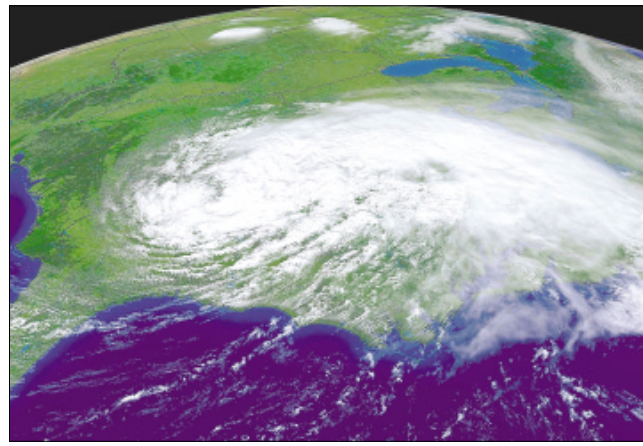
some areas triggered deadly floods, and tornadoes were reported as far north as Maryland.

In Florida, Ivan struck while the state is still reeling from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Charley ravaged the state's west coast five weeks ago, while Frances pounded the east over Labor Day weekend.

The hurricanes have left virtually all of Florida a disaster area, and the recovery from Ivan has been complicated by widespread power outages, washed-out roads and bridges and gas shortages.

"You've got to take the bad with the good," said 42-year-old Tracie Stitt, who stood in a pile of cinderblock and tile that once was the home she and her husband shared with her in-laws near Perdido Bay, Fla.

"If you live in California it'd be earthquakes, if you live in Kansas it'd be tornadoes, up north it's snowstorms," she said. "There's not a perfect place on earth. You've just got to take your losses and pray and go on."



NOAA

This satellite image shows the remnants of Ivan. The storm triggered deadly flooding, with tornadoes reported as far north as Maryland.

### INSIDE

■ Chucky the alligator is still on the loose in Gulf Shores, Ala., and the streets of an eastern Tennessee town were flooded. Scenes from Ivan's path, 18A

■ Tropical Storm Jeanne lashed the Dominican Republic. 18A

### ON THE WEB

Check out the current conditions along Ivan's path — or closer to home — on [DallasNews.com/weather](http://DallasNews.com/weather).

## Rangers reliever booted until '05

2 other players, coach suspended in brawl; appeals are planned

By EVAN GRANT  
Staff Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Major League Baseball has spoken on Texas Rangers relief pitcher Frank Francisco's future. He is not welcome for the remainder of the season.

Three Rangers players and a coach were suspended Friday for the Rangers' brawl with fans in Oakland on Monday night. Francisco, who threw a chair into the stands and was arrested on suspicion of aggravated battery, received the stiffest penalty in more than a decade: 16 games. The Rangers began Friday with 16 games to play.

"I don't feel good about it, but whatever they say, I have to take it," Francisco was quoted as saying by The Associated Press. "I really don't want to talk about it."

See RANGERS Page 24A

## 527s adding cash, clout to campaign

Small political groups with big sums of money rock presidential race

By COLLEEN MCCAIN NELSON  
Staff Writer

This was supposed to be the election that wasn't bogged down by questions about big money. But the little groups with the funny name and plenty of cash have dominated this year's campaigns.

Dubbed 527s, these political organizations can rake in unlimited money and use it for a wide array of purposes. The groups are born in basements and over coffee, and can evolve from a proposal to a political force in a matter of days.

The 527s — the name refers to the section of the tax code that allows them to organize — have altered the political landscape and, some say, changed the course of the 2004 presidential campaigns.

See STRENGTH Page 2A

## Texas justice is accused of conflict

Brister says he doesn't recall case linked to his campaign

By CHRISTY HOPPE  
Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister considered a case before his court in January while one of the law firms involved was handling legal matters for his election campaign, state records show.

On Friday, the opposing counsel cried foul, saying the judge should have removed himself from deliberations once he saw that his own lawyers represented a party to the lawsuit.

"If we had known that he had a

conflict, we would have asked for a recusal," said Houston lawyer James Sharp.

Justice Brister said that he did not remember the case.

"Obviously, with the election, I don't want to do anything that looks improper. So if it had been brought to my attention, I probably would have recused," the judge said.

Justice Brister, a Republican, is facing Democrat David Van Os in the November election.

The case in question involved a jury's \$20 million award to a Houston woman, Irene Aguilera. Ms. Aguilera sued Wal-Mart after its security guard falsely accused her of shoplifting. She was held in

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LARA SOLT/Staff Photographer  
Lt. Cmdr. Jason Williams of Bellville, Texas, naps on his cot at Camp Patriot on Kuwait naval base.

Texas sailors counting days in Persian Gulf

## It's not smooth sailing in desert

By GRETCEL C. KOVACH  
Staff Writer

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The Texas Navy reservists arrived in the Kuwait desert in the hottest time of the year. They were greeted by a sandstorm that obliterated the sun, but not the heat or the homesickness.

By the time the next sandblast arrived a month later, the cargo handlers, fuel specialists and postal clerks of Forward Group Bravo, Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force barely blinked behind their tinted goggles.

They're getting used to work-

### DISPATCH FROM KUWAIT

ing in the 120-degree heat, to the steady drone of the generators cooling their tents and the bite of petrochemicals in the air. But the 470 sailors sent to work for the Army at a Kuwait port and along supply lines deep into Iraq are counting the days.

Six months in the Persian Gulf, almost eight months in all from doorstep to doorstep before they return home.

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