

# The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

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## SUNDAY'S GAME: Cowboys vs. Panthers, 7:15 p.m. Parcells puts offense in Romo's hands

**NEW QB, FOR NOW:** Coach Bill Parcells replaces Drew Bledsoe with Tony Romo (left), at least for Sunday. **IC**  
**KEVIN SHERRINGTON:** Before casting Romo as the lesser of two evils, ask how Parcells got himself into this fix. **IC**

SPORTSDAY: MORE COWBOYS, IC, 12-14C

Partly sunny



High: 83 Low: 55  
Metro, Back Page

### TEXAS

#### Surplus leads Perry to talk of tax cuts

As estimates of the state's budget surplus continue to swell, Gov. Rick Perry calls for tax cuts. **3A**

### NATION

#### N.J. court: Let gays wed, or close to it

New Jersey's highest court ruled that same-sex couples must be offered marriage or something like it. **11A**

### METRO

#### Determined parents find help in Dallas

With persistence and help from a Dallas hospital, a Mexican couple gets life-changing surgery for their daughter. **1B**

### BUSINESS

#### End of the line for Ford Taurus

After 21 years and sales of nearly 7 million cars, Ford says goodbye to Taurus. **1D**

### FAMILY

#### Pop the trunk for a Halloween treat

Halloween tailgating is a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. **Page 4**

### ON THE WEB



#### Abuse, shooting survivor to chat

Log on to DallasNews.com/discusslive at 10:30 a.m. Friday to chat with Carolyn Thomas, the domestic-abuse survivor who underwent 11 major surgeries to rebuild her face after she was shot in 2003. You can send advance questions to chat@dallasnews.com.

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# Iraqi premier, U.S. don't see eye to eye

*"The new Iraqi government has condemned violence from all quarters and agreed to a schedule for resolving issues."*

President Bush



MANDEL NGAN/Agence France-Presse

*"This government is one of popular will and national unity, and it is nobody's right to put timetables before it."*

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki



WATHIQ KHUZAIE/Getty Images

## In latest challenges, he rejects timeline, assails Baghdad raid

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF  
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. officials and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki are increasingly at odds over strategy and goals, a division that American officials in Iraq say is making it harder to pursue their objectives in Iraq.

On Wednesday, Mr. al-Maliki rejected a day-old call by the two top American officials in Iraq for a timetable for his government to tackle the nation's most intractable problems.

"This government is one of popular will and national unity, and it is nobody's right to put timetables before it," Mr. al-Maliki said in a nationally televised news conference.

The prime minister also denounced an American bombing mission in the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City that the U.S. said had killed a notorious Shiite Muslim death-squad member.

It was at least the third time in recent weeks that Mr. al-Maliki had publicly contradicted American positions, and it

underscored that he draws much of his support from the very militia groups that the U.S. is pressing him to dismantle.

The differences with the Bush administration were also evident during President Bush's news conference in Washington on Wednesday.

"I know many Americans are not satisfied with the situation in Iraq," Mr. Bush said in an opening statement. "I'm not satisfied, either."

See IRAQI Page 16A

### DigitalEXTRA

Video: Watch a report on President Bush's news conference.

DallasNews.com/Extra

### INSIDE

Muslim extremists aspiring to battle the West are turning their attention back to the increasingly violent turf of Afghanistan, officials say. **16A**

### BUSH OUTLINES PLAN TO STEADY IRAQ

President Bush said Wednesday that the U.S.-led coalition forces are refining their military tactics to defeat the enemy, and he outlined three steps being taken to reach a political solution in Iraq:

#### First step

Working with political and religious leaders to stop sectarian violence.

**Challenge:** Some of the most powerful figures, such as Shiite cleric and militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr, are fiercely opposed to the U.S. presence and are unlikely to cooperate.

#### Second step

Helping Iraqi leaders to complete work on a national compact to resolve issues such as disarming militias and sharing oil revenue.

**Challenge:** So far, the Iraqi government has resisted moving against the powerful militias, a needed first step before a broader settlement can be reached.

#### Third step

Enlisting Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan to support Iraqi government efforts to persuade Sunni insurgents to lay down their arms and accept national reconciliation.

**Challenge:** The U.S. has strained or broken relations with countries that may have more influence inside Iraq, such as Syria and Iran.

# Wealthy trio give bulk of party donations

## Men say they're aiding important Texas causes, not buying influence

By CHRISTY HOPPE  
Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Three mega-donors have been financially carrying the state's political parties in recent months, providing the vast majority of the money raised in state bank accounts by the Republicans and Democrats, campaign disclosure reports show.

Dallas trial lawyer Fred Baron indirectly provided \$317,000 of the \$470,000 taken in by the Democratic Party — or 67 cents of every dollar raised — this year.

For the Republicans, San Antonio physician-turned-businessman James Leininger and Houston homebuilder Bob Perry together gave \$680,000 of the state party's \$1.2 million in contributions.

The donors say they merely want to help the parties — Mr. Baron to rebuild the Democratic Party, Mr. Perry to fund a statewide get-out-the-vote effort, and Dr. Leininger to support a party that agrees with him on school vouchers.

But to some, the squaring-off represents yet another battle in the long-running feud between trial lawyers and big business.

See WEALTHY Page 2A

### TOP CONTRIBUTORS

In the first nine months of 2006, three wealthy men have dominated giving to state political parties:

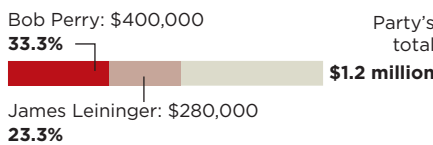
#### TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Fred Baron  
Texas Democratic Trust contributor



#### TEXAS REPUBLICAN PARTY



Bob Perry



James Leininger



DAMEON RUNNELS/Staff Artist

\*The Texas Democratic Trust is a political action committee that has received 85 percent of its funds this year from Dallas lawyer Fred Baron.

SOURCE: Dallas Morning News research

# Justices signal dismay at Texas

Decision to hear capital cases may suggest high court questions handling

By DIANE JENNINGS  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear three Texas death penalty cases in its new term, a move that veteran court watchers called the latest signal of the court's increasing frustration with how condemned inmates' appeals are handled by Texas' highest criminal judges and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeals of three Texas inmates — one of them convicted of killing a woman in DeSoto — will be among only about 70 to 80 cases the Supreme Court will consider this year. Most of the roughly 8,000 cases petitioned to the high court are rejected.

"Unfortunately, it's become business as usual that the Supreme Court is paying a disproportionate amount of attention to capital cases out of Texas," said Mark Osler, a law professor at Baylor University.

"Considering there are entire realms of law in which no cases are taken, such as bankruptcy, the fact that so much of their effort is going to this one area and from one state is highly unusual," he said.

At issue is whether the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the 5th Circuit are adhering to the Supreme Court's previous orders in

See TEXAS Page 2A

# CT scans flag lung cancers

But study doesn't show that early detection means better outlook

By DAVID BROWN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A new study has found that it is possible to find a large number of "silent" cancers in the lungs of heavy smokers by periodically screening them with CT scans.

When the tumors are then taken out by surgery, most people live five years or more, in striking contrast to patients whose cancers are found only after they experience symptoms.

The study of nearly 32,000 people in eight countries boosts hope that early detection by CT scans might reduce the death toll of lung cancer, such as mammography has done for breast cancer.

But while the research clearly shows that the interval between diagnosis and death was longer in screened patients, it does not definitively show they actually lived longer — a subtle difference with huge public health consequences.

See CT SCANS Page 8A

