

# The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

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# Sunday

## It's Mizzou vs. OU

No. 3 Missouri upset No. 2 Kansas, 36-28, to move a step closer to the BCS title game. Mizzou plays OU on Saturday for the Big 12 title.

SPORTSDAY II, ICC

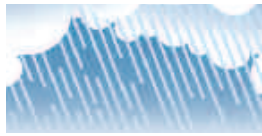


## High school playoffs

Plano	28	Mansfield Timberview	28
Mesquite	7	Lubbock Monterey	20
Carter	28	Skyline	49
Garland Naaman Forest	20	Rowlett	7
McKinney Boyd	21		
Marshall	14		

More coverage, ICC, 7-9C

### Rain likely



High: 43 Low: 37  
Metro, Back Page

Chilly weather to linger, 2A

### GUIDELIVE

#### Need gift ideas?

Our arts staff picks the season's best music, books, movies and toys. 1, 8E



## Family endures war's deadly echo

### Nephew who died in Iraq was image of uncle, a Vietnam casualty

By MICHAEL GRANBERRY  
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ARCHER CITY, Texas — In the dead of night, when he's driving home in his 18-wheeler, J.B. Johnston stares at the darkness in front of him and ponders what might have been. The emotion catches up with him, and suddenly he's awash in tears, alone with his memories of a brother and son claimed by war.

When it comes to sacrifice, the Johnston family has given far more than most. Mr. Johnston's brother was killed in Vietnam in 1970. His son Gary, named for the uncle he never met, was killed in Iraq earlier this year.

"Before my son left for Iraq," says Mr. Johnston, "we sat down in the living room, and he planned his funeral. He had few requests. He did ask to be buried next to his uncle, in Archer City."

The parallels between the two Garys are startling. On Jan. 23, when he stepped on an improvised explosive device in Anbar province, Marine Sgt. Gary Scott Johnston was 21 and "walking point," guarding those behind him.

On the April day 37 years ago when he was felled by a single round from a Russian-made machine gun in a jungle

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Above: Sgt. Gary Clarence Johnston, who was killed in Vietnam. Left: Nephew Sgt. Gary Scott Johnston, killed in Iraq.

## Scarred and motivated by past, Perry's go-to man gets the job done



ERICH SCHLEGEL/Staff Photographer

Jay Kimbrough — adviser to Gov. Rick Perry, reformer of the Texas Youth Commission, fixer of biodefense breaches at Texas A&M University and Harley-Davidson enthusiast — checks out a bike at a College Station store.

## Rough edges, but no apologies

By EMILY RAMSHAW  
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COLLEGE STATION, Texas — With Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" howling from the speakers and all 800 pounds of his Harley-Davidson thundering across a twisting Hill Country road, Jay Kimbrough lifts one leather-gloved hand to the sky.

"See those?" he shouts over the engine's steely growl, pointing to a pair of buzzards circling above him. "They're after me."

It's less a joke than an observation for Mr. Kimbrough, a self-proclaimed "dead man walk-

ing" who survived near fatal injuries in the jungles of Vietnam and now charges into high-profile jobs — adviser to Gov. Rick Perry, reformer of the embattled Texas Youth Commission, and his most recent, fixer of biodefense breaches at Texas A&M University.

The battle wounds have left him without fear or sense, depending on who's talking. He's a duty-driven, freedom-fighting Mr. Fix-It who lives one BlackBerry message away from entering another burning building.

Over the past decade, Mr. Kimbrough has

See KIMBROUGH Page 12A

"Do I have any burning desire to be out standing in front of every train running in Texas? No, ma'am, I don't."

Jay Kimbrough

## State fights smog cuts

### Agency, industry on same page in opposing tighter EPA ozone limit

By RANDY LEE LOFTIS  
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Some of Texas' biggest industries have an important ally in trying to keep the Environmental Protection Agency from ordering nationwide smog cuts: the state's top clean-air officials.

At least four times since the EPA previewed its proposal in March, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality — which is responsible for fighting ozone in smog-bound areas such as Dallas-Fort Worth and metropolitan Houston — has urged the EPA not to tighten the federal limit on ozone, smog's chief component.

The TCEQ's arguments closely match those of the heavy industries it regulates, including manufacturers and coal-burning power companies. Last month, two major Texas business groups lifted TCEQ language attacking the EPA proposal and reproduced it, sometimes verbatim, in their own comments to the EPA.

Many scientists and medical groups have concluded that the current ozone limit, set in 1997, can no longer be considered safe. They include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Society, the American Thoracic Society, the American Lung Association, the administrator and staff of the EPA, and all 23 members of a panel that reviewed the science for the EPA.

The experts' consensus indicates that people in urban North Texas are breathing dirtier air, with a higher risk of lung damage,

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## TAX BILL DELINQUENCIES

## County pays price when property owners don't

### Tax avoiders costing cities, schools, hospitals \$493 million in revenue

By KEVIN KRAUSE and MOLLY MOTLEY BLYTHE  
Staff Writers

The property tax bill has just arrived in the mail.

Most of us pay on time.

But there are the thousands of other Dallas County property

owners who don't pay — and never will. They stall collection efforts with bankruptcies, challenge previous appraisals or just disappear with no forwarding address.

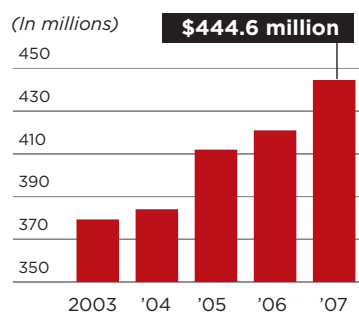
It adds up to at least \$493 million in lost revenue for the county's cities, schools, hospitals and colleges, according to an analysis of the county's delinquent tax roll by *The Dallas Morning News*.

It's enough money to pay for

See MOST Page 18A

## WHAT'S OWED

Dallas County's total delinquent tax roll from July 2003 to June 30.



Note: Figures include penalties and interest

SOURCE: Dallas County Tax Office

KYLE ALCOTT/Staff Artist

## Is a crackdown on vendors past due?

### Other counties keep tabs on contractors, but Dallas is owed \$3 million

By KEVIN KRAUSE and MOLLY MOTLEY BLYTHE  
Staff Writers

Dallas County officials say they are aggressive about collecting delinquent property taxes.

But some of those tax delin-

quents have done work for Dallas County government, receiving thousands of dollars of taxpayer money, according to an analysis by *The Dallas Morning News*.

Other property owners have received lucrative tax exemptions from Dallas County and its other taxing entities.

Dallas County contracts prohibit the county from doing business

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