VICE:

## Applications for permit to carry concealed weapons available

The Texas Department of Public Safety estimates that 200,000 Texans will apply for licenses.

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's new concealed-hand-run law will make Texans safer, Gov. George W. Bush declared Thursday, a day before the law goes

"I wouldn't have signed the bill if I didn't think it was going to make them safer," Bush said. "And I be-

lieve it's going to Beginning Friday, Texans may start applying for handgun permits and taking state-required training courses. Actual carrying of concealed guns won't be allowed until Jan. 1, 1996.

"We want people to understand that even though the law setting up the concealed-handgun licensing program is officially in effect as of Friday, this only means the licensing process may begin," said James R. Wilson, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, which oversees implementation of the law.

The agency estimates that 200,000 Texans will apply for handgun permits.

So far, more than 30,000 people have mailed in postcards requesting application packets, which will

a A 19-year-old student

clothed in the Colorado

ful death lawsuit against the

school spirit group.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday

by Ruth Muffett asks for unspec-

for the Cowboys' "gross negli-

gence" and "conscious indiffer-

Gabriel Benjamin Higgins, 19,

29 while swimming fully clothed in

ence" to the death.

the Colorado River

from Idaho drowned

while swimming fully

River at the initiation

ceremony.

be available starting today. Calls have been pouring into DPS headquarters about the new law, Wilson said, prompting the agency to distribute a list of commonly asked ques-

Bush said he expects some confusion as Texans get used to

tions and answers.

Legal opinions issued by Attorney General Dan Morales this week cleared up some

questions regarding the law. Morales ruled that transit authorities and businesses may ban guns. He also said counties may prohibit concealed handguns within county parks, but

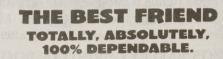
cities cannot do the same within city parks Firearms instructors and range operators who plan to offer the training classes said they're ready.

Calvin Tidwell, an instructor at Red's Indoor Range in Austin, begins teaching his first course on Sunday. With 700 people already signed up, Tidwell said no one should expect the classes to

run perfectly at first. "It's going to be like anything else. When you first start teaching a course, you have a few bugs to work



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WHEN IT COMES TO DELIVERY ... GOTTA BE DOMINO'S

Jeff Rusk, the lawyer representing Higgins' mother. The lawsuit alleges the group's picnic was the culmina-

At the time, Higgins was attending the organization's initia-

killed this young man. I think

these parents want change," said

"Our bottom line is that hazing

tion ceremony, or "picnic."

tion of hazing activities that be-AUSTIN (AP) — The mother of gan in February when Higgins was "tapped in," or selected for a University of Texas student who drowned while swimming during membership in the group. an initiation ceremony into the Texas Cowboys has filed a wrong-

It also alleges that Higgins, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, was "physically whipped, beaten and struck" as part of the "tap in" ritual.

Individual Cowboys officers ified damages for the loss of her named as defendants in the suit son as well as punitive damages spring foreman Carter Bechtol, fall '94 foreman David McArthur, vice president Corby McWilliams, pledge educator Grover Geiselman and treasurer Brooks of Pocatello, Idaho, drowned April Meltzer - could not immediately be reached for comment.

Suit filed against UT Cowboys Michael Morgan, who owns the farm near Smithville where the group gathered, "recklessly" permitted hazing to occur, failed to supervise the group and allowed minors to consume alcohol on his property

The allegations in the lawsuit are consistent with the findings of the University of Texas dean of students' office.

Dean Sharon Justice found hazing had occurred, and she canceled the Cowboys' student organization registration for five years.

Her action means the group cannot continue its tradition of firing Smokey the Cannon at Longhorn football games or participate in intramural activities, post signs or raise funds on campus.

A hearing examiner, acting on an appeal filed by the Cowboys, reduced the punishment to a threeyear registration cancellation, followed by a year on probation. The dean has appealed that ruling.



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