

IN A SLUMP

As rest of economy rebounded, home prices in 20 U.S. cities dropped in March to lowest level since 2003 ■ **Business, B7**

LEGAL GAMBLE

Lottery winner who was scammed out of winnings sues state, others, to recover rest of lost prize money ■ **B3**

CENTRAL TEXAS ■ EDUCATION

Districts in area deem finance bill incomplete

Measure calls for statewide 6% trim, but cut won't be felt equally, officials say

By Laura Heinauer and Melissa B. Taboada
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Though the cuts are smaller than what they were anticipated to be months ago, Austin-area school district officials say the school finance bill filed Tuesday at the start of the special legislative session still needs some work.

In particular, districts that for years have been receiving less per student than their counterparts are looking for lawmakers to come up with a more equitable way of distributing about \$4 billion that the state owes districts under current school finance law.

Under Tuesday's plan, Senate Bill 1, every district will take a 6 percent cut in revenue in fiscal year 2011-12. In 2012-13, however, districts that in the past have gotten less money per student per current school finance laws won't take as large of a hit.

See **EDUCATION, B5**



Rodolfo Gonzalez AMERICAN-STATESMAN
Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst discusses this week's schedule Tuesday. The Senate will take today off and tackle school finance on Thursday.

LEGISLATURE ■ SPECIAL SESSION

Chambers ease into 1st day back

House, Senate map strategy as Perry adds congressional redistricting to call

By Chuck Lindell
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The special legislative session got off to a low-key start Tuesday, with the House gaveling the day closed after 10 minutes and the Senate shifting its workload toward the end of the week.

Senators will take today off

before launching into Thursday morning committee hearings that, given the controversial nature of school finance cuts and the size of other education and health measures, could produce public testimony lasting late into the night or extending into Friday.

The House returns this morning, when Speaker Joe Straus expects to reveal a work plan after conferring with Senate leaders on which bills will be taken up first in the two legislative bodies.

"It is our hope that you

See **EASE, B5**

PolitiFact Texas

Sorting out the truth in politics



Rob Eissler

Statement:
'Obesity kills 34 children per hour.'

Child obesity is bad, but claim about deaths is light on facts

By Ciara O'Rourke
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Honoring Dallas physician Kenneth Cooper, who has spent much of his career promoting aerobics, state Rep. Rob Eissler warned against the dangers of obesity. It "kills 34 children per hour," the Republican from The Woodlands said on the House floor May 23.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says obesity can foster high blood pressure and heightened cholesterol in children, along with breathing and joint difficulties and fatty liver disease.

But does it kill a kid every couple of seconds? Eissler told us he based the claim on a documentary about obesity that had premiered at Austin's Long Center the previous evening, "Health Needs a Hero." Both Cooper and Eissler appear in the film, which focuses on childhood obesity.

"People die as a result of disease resulting from obesity," Eissler told us.

Jen Ohlson, the founder of PE3, an Austin nonprofit group that works to curb obesity in schools, wrote, directed and produced the film. She sent us the statement from the documentary that Eissler was referring to: "Obesity-related diseases ... kill one person every 90 seconds, 34 people every hour, 822 people every single day and 330,000 people" annually.

Ohlson cited a Wikipedia page and a Wiki-Answers page as her source for the declared rates of death-by-obesity.

The Wikipedia page links to a 1999 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The study, based in part on 1991 national statistics, concluded that 280,000 to 325,000 U.S. adults die annually because of obesity.

CDC spokeswoman Karen Hunter told us the agency more recently has estimated that obesity accounts for 112,000 deaths a year, or about 13 deaths an hour. According to an undated CDC sheet of frequently asked questions about calculating obesity-related risk, the estimate has dropped in recent years because CDC scientists started using newer data and different methods of analysis. (Note: All these estimated death rates, from the outdated to the most recent, are for adults, not children.)

Hunter said the CDC does not know how many U.S. children die annually from obesity. The chronic obesity-related diseases that kill most Americans, including heart disease and diabetes, "typically take decades to develop." That is, they show up mostly in adults.

For more expertise, we reached Stephen Pont, medical director of the Texas Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity, affiliated with the Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin. He told us that while he was unaware of any data showing

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'When he sits down with patients, he knows the patients, he knows their families, and he's interested.'

KEVIN HOPPER

Radiologic technologist who works with Dr. Larry Don Greenway

AUSTIN ■ HEALTH CARE

Doctor marks half-century of work as smooth operator



Larry Kolvoord AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Dr. Larry Don Greenway studies a patient's X-rays – which the 'old school' physician still calls radiographs – at Austin Bone and Joint Clinic last month. At 75, he's the oldest full-time orthopedic surgeon in the area.

Rewards of surgery, connections to patients keep physician on job

By Mary Ann Roser
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Hung over, miserable from the heat and a relentless West Texas sun, Larry Don Greenway says he was 18 or 19 when he had his epiphany on a dusty summer day working as welder's assistant on a pipeline in Odessa.

"I figured there was a better way," said Greenway, who turns 75 in October. He decided to become educated in a profession that was fun and allowed him to be his own boss.

Greenway says he found that profession. He is marking his 50th year as an orthopedic surgeon — 43 of them in Austin. He's the oldest among his peers still working full time in the Austin area, and though the work is physically demanding, it's obvious he's still having fun.

"You're doing things with your hands," he said. "Ninety percent of joint replacements are successful. The patients are so grateful you fixed them, and it's very reward-

See **JOINT, B3**

ANTHONY NUNN

Burnet grad 'had a goodness about him'

Man, 19, shined at high school before signing up for infantry

By Jeremy Schwartz
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

His band director at Burnet High School suggested he join the Army band, but Pfc. Anthony Nunn wanted to be where the fight was.

"He really wanted to go infantry," Mike Lewis, the former band leader at the school, said Tuesday. "He always had."

On Memorial Day, less than two months after arriving in Afghanistan, Nunn was killed by an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Paktika Province, a mountainous region along the Pakistani border.



Anthony Nunn

ond chair trombone player. Nunn impressed teachers with his spirit and work ethic.

"He had a goodness about him," said school counselor and former teacher Julie Collins, who taught Nunn biology. "He was very honest. ... That was more important to him than

See **NUNN, B5**

South Congress repaving project



AMERICAN-STATESMAN

AUSTIN ■ TRAFFIC

On South Congress, resurfacing work to slow flow for a spell

By Ben Wear
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

A project to resurface South Congress Avenue from Riverside Drive to Oltorf Street will come with lane closures — and traffic delays — running from today through mid-July.

The work will begin at the south end, moving in a first phase to Annie Street. Northbound lanes will typically be closed from 8:30 a.m. (near the end of the morning rush period with heaviest inbound traffic) until 7 p.m., and southbound lane closures will run from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., ending before outbound traffic thickens. At least one lane will always be open in each direction.

The second phase, expected to last from about June 10 to June 27, will run from Annie Street to Nellie Street at the south end of the Texas School for the Deaf's frontage

See **CLOSURES, B5**

A frame aflame

Austin firefighters take on a burning pickup that is 'fully involved,' right down to the flaming door frame. No one was injured in the blaze on Texas 71 in Oak Hill near the 'Y' on Tuesday.

Larry Kolvoord AMERICAN-STATESMAN

