

# Austin American-Statesman

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Leggett sees great outdoors  
driving across Texas on I-10 **C1**



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## IN THE NEWS

### World



**As the U.N. Security Council sanctions** Libya for its violent crackdown on protesters, Moammar Gadhafi's regime sends out armed patrols to quash dissent. **A4**

■ Libya lacks the institutions to steady the country if Gadhafi is toppled. **A4**  
■ Other developments in the region. **A4**  
■ What was life in Egypt like under Hosni Mubarak – and how will it change? The Statesman's Bob Gee recalls a land of daily frustration. **D1**

**A year after a devastating earthquake and tsunami**, many Chileans are still struggling to start over. **A3**

**Iran is forced to pull fuel** from its showcase nuclear facility over unspecified safety concerns. **A10**

## Nation

**Governors plead for the federal government** to avoid doing anything that would hurt the economic recovery back home. **A2**

**Amid the fiscal fighting** in Capitol Hill, earmarks are gone from the budgetary battleground. **A8**

**Tea party members** meeting in Phoenix have high standards for the next Republican nominee for president. **A8**

**New Mexico's renowned chile industry** says it is being priced out by foreign peppers and hurt by impostors, and one lawmaker has filed a bill to protect the state's spicy staple. **A8**

## Business

**HomeAway's \$3 million Super Bowl ad** turned a national splash into a lesson in public relations recovery. **E1**

## Weather

**83°/46°**  
Morning fog and drizzle; then mostly cloudy and warm. **B6**

Business	E1
Deaths	B3-5
Insight & Books	D1
Life & Arts	F1
Sports	C1
Classifieds	G1, H1

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## STATESMAN FOCUS ■ HEALTH

# State Medicaid cuts threaten rural care



Deborah Cannon AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Photographs of some of the many children Dr. Dondi Ridens has delivered hang on a wall near her office at the Childress Regional Medical Center in the Panhandle. Ridens faces the possibility of having to give up obstetrics.

## Loss of money could force some hospitals out of business, cause doctors to stop delivering babies

By Tim Eaton

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

**CHILDRESS** — Dr. Mike Henderson has delivered nearly 2,700 babies in this rural, windswept community on the flatlands of the Texas Panhandle.

He calls himself a “grand-doctor” because some of the babies were the offspring of those he delivered earlier in his 33 years of practicing family medicine here.

But that streak could come to an

end soon.

Proposed cuts in state Medicaid funding could lead to reduced access to health care across rural Texas. And Henderson said the baby-delivering operation at the Childress Regional Medical Center, the only hospital within 100 miles that has such facilities, could end up being a casualty of the cuts.

The 61-year-old physician said he has seen several instances in his career in which the hospital's personnel have played a vital role

in patients' lives. As recently as last week, the hospital saw it again as the staff stabilized a newborn before she was transferred to a team of specialists in Amarillo. The baby died a day later despite the efforts of the staffs in Childress and Amarillo.

Childress is about 110 miles southeast of Amarillo and 225 miles northwest of Fort Worth on U.S. 287.

The obstetrics division at the Childress hospital wouldn't be the only one affected if the Medicaid cuts are approved. Nor would it be the worst.

Entire rural hospitals could go out of business. And that could make it difficult for tens of thousands of Texans to get obstetric care, emer-

See **HEALTH**, A6

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## TEXAS ■ FILM INCENTIVES

# Fill your hands

With 10 Oscar nominations, Texas-made “True Grit” pays off for Coen brothers

By Matthew Odam

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Maybe a little bit of that Texas magic has rubbed off on filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen.

The last time the brothers took a movie they shot in Texas to the Academy Awards (2007's “No Country for Old Men”), they walked home with arms full of Oscars.

The Coens return to the star-studded festivities tonight with “True Grit,” nominated for 10 Academy Awards, including nods for best picture, di-

rector, actor and supporting actress. The film trails only the 12 nominations for “The King's Speech.”

Parts of the movie, starring Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and newcomer Hailee Steinfeld, were shot in Granger, Austin and Blanco last spring.

The brothers, who also serve as producers on their films, say they chose Texas for the terrain and congenial atmosphere for production talent as well as its tax incentives — which are under attack in the current legislative session.

Known for movies such as “Fargo,” “The Big Lebowski”

See **MOVIE**, A13

◀ Joel and Ethan Coen also filmed ‘No Country for Old Men’ in Texas.



## IN LIFE & ARTS | F1

### Actor's pride: Lone Star style

Bill Paxton says he's no ‘Super Texan,’ but he is still glad he grew up here

## IN STATESMAN HOMES | G1

### All fixed up

TV's ‘Sell This House’ sweetens deal for another Austin home sale



## TRAVEL IN LIFE & ARTS | F10

### Cab capers

What will your taxi ride be like? Well, it really depends on the city

## AUSTIN ■ GOVERNMENT

# City officials apologize for remarks made in e-mails

Messages show harsh opinions from mayor, council members

By Tony Plohotski and Sarah Coppola

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell and two City Council members expressed regret Saturday for statements they wrote in e-mails made public last week that contained unflattering opinions of others, including city officials.

Leffingwell said that he contacted several people he had criticized in his e-mails and that he wanted to apologize to them and “anyone else who took exception to (the statements) or anything else I wrote.”

“My commitment moving forward is to stay focused on issues, like the city budget, that are critical to Austin's future,” Leffingwell said. The day brought other apologies.

Council Member Bill Spelman said Council Member Randi Shade sent him a text message early Saturday apologizing for an e-mail to colleagues in which she said that “at least now we know Spelman's wonkiness is genetic.”

Shade also wrote that well-known environmentalist Robin Rather is “crazy” and “two-faced.”

In a statement Saturday, Shade said: “I am embarrassed by some of the e-mails I have exchanged with my colleagues at City Hall, and I apologize to anyone I have offended. E-mail is a casual, short-hand form of communication that is common in today's world. In my job as a City Council Member, however, my e-mail belongs to the public. I should have kept the banter to myself.”

See **APOLOGY**, A10

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Read excerpts and all of the released e-mails from council members with this story online.

## AUSTIN ■ PLANNING

# Densely urbanist vision of growth up for deliberation

City Council to vote in March on 30-year development map

By Marty Toohey

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Austin city planners have drawn a long-anticipated blueprint that they say would guide Austin to the more densely populated, urban-feeling future city leaders have long envisioned.

According to a 30-year, formal plan the city is creating, Austin would accommodate an anticipated 550,000 more people with more and sometimes taller buildings concentrated between Interstate 35 and MoPac Boulevard (Loop 1).

Over time, most of the new arrivals would live and work between the highways, mainly in clusters or corridors encouraged by new city rules. For instance, Austin would see more of the mix of shops, apartments and condominiums emerging in places such as South Congress Avenue.

Meanwhile, a similar pattern would emerge

See **VISION**, A12

## Sunday exclusive

This story appears first in our Sunday print edition. It will be available to our online readers Monday on [statesman.com](http://statesman.com).



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