

Austin American-Statesman

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IN MOVIES & LIFE | NEW RELEASES | D1

WHAT TO SEE

There's a new 'Nightmare,' some 'Furry Vengeance' and a look at the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers

IN SPORTS | ALL-CENTEX SOCCER | C1

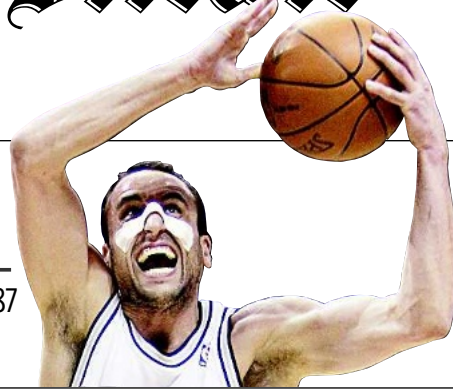
KICKING STAR

Manor's Angel Reveles shines on and off the field. Plus, we name our annual all-star team

IN SPORTS | NBA PLAYOFFS | C1

SPURS ROLL

In upset, San Antonio upends Dallas 97-87 to claim spot in second round



TRAVIS COUNTY ■ LAW ENFORCEMENT

Husband of nonprofits theft suspect jailed



Louanne Aponte still sought on felony charges.

Marco Aponte charged with money laundering; officials track \$2 million to account

By Eric Dexheimer and Andrea Ball
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

With the number of agencies Louanne Aponte is alleged to have embezzled from rising, Travis County prosecutors on

Thursday arrested her husband, charging him with felony money laundering.

Marco Aponte's name appeared on several bank accounts believed to have been used to move money that his wife siphoned from at least three charities she worked with during the past two decades, the arrest warrant said.

The warrant said that Louanne Aponte, who has been charged with felony theft and records tampering, is believed to be in Venezuela, where Marco Aponte is from

and still has family. Thursday's warrant asks for Marco Aponte's passport to be seized.

Marco Aponte's attorney Joe Turner said that his client was cooperating with prosecutors and that he was working to get Aponte released on bail, which was set at \$300,000. Prosecutor Gregg Cox declined to comment.

According to the latest filing, investi-
See **ARREST**, A6

CITY FINANCES ■ PROJECTIONS

Austin Energy review sought

Major rate increase expected as utility foresees shortfalls of \$80 million to \$100 million

By Marty Toohey

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

City Manager Marc Ott has ordered an independent evaluation of Austin Energy's finances and long-term planning, as the utility grapples with an \$83 million budget shortfall and projected funding gaps for several years to come.

Ott hopes to recommend to the City Council by next month a consulting firm to conduct the review, as well as help craft long-term plans to head off financial pressures expected in Austin and throughout the energy industry.

"We've raised enough red flags with the city manager that he wants a clear picture of our financial situation," said Assistant City Manager Robert Goode, interim director of Austin Energy, the city's electricity provider.

The immediate picture is sobering. Goode said that unless the utility makes major changes, it will be facing annual funding shortfalls of between \$80 million and \$100 million for the next five years or so. By 2011 Austin Energy would have spent its reserves; by 2013 it would be \$177 million in the red.

Compounding problems, as more homes and businesses erect solar arrays — often with



Marc Ott City manager to recommend consultant.



Robert Goode Energy chief says 'sizable' hike likely.

See **ENERGY**, A9

INSIDE

Complaints delay City Council vote on Austin Energy control center, **B8**

CITY COUNCIL

Austin may limit Arizona ties over immigration law

By Sarah Coppola

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The Austin City Council will consider limiting city travel to Arizona and ending business relationships with that state, in part to protest a new Arizona law that will give local and state law enforcement officers broad powers to detain anyone they suspect of being in the country illegally.

The law, which also makes failure to carry immigration documents a crime, has drawn national attention and has been criticized by some as racial profiling and an attempt to discriminate against Hispanics, regardless of their citizenship status.

"The law is overreaching and does not represent values that we care about or possess," Austin City Council Member Mike Martinez said. "It's important to send a message that

See **LIMIT**, A8

INSIDE

Obama administration examining legal strategies to fight Arizona law, **A8**

LEANDER ■ TRANSPORTATION

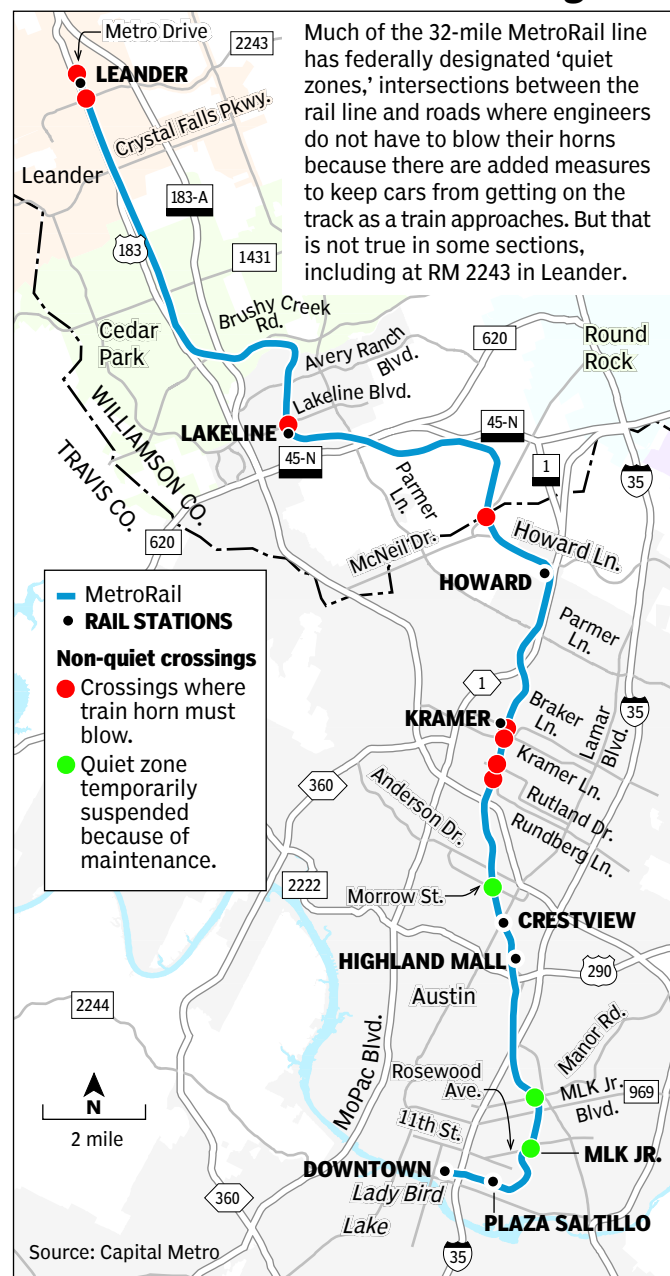
Rail a rude awakening for some



Jay Janner ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nina Warwick and her family are being awakened by train horns and whistles near RM 2243 in Leander, where MetroRail commuter trains and freight trains pass within a few blocks of her home.

Leander hears that train a'coming



@ statesman.com: Watch a video about the rail crossing with this story online.

Leander families want crossing near their homes to become 'quiet zone'

By Ben Wear

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Nina Warwick has a new alarm clock, 140 feet of shiny red-and-silver metal that sounds without warning two hours before she, her husband, David, and their children would otherwise awaken. Several times. And there's no snooze button.

Sometime before 5:25 a.m. each weekday, Capital Metro's commuter train horns begin blowing a quarter mile from their windows. The Warwicks, who have lived in their Leander home for about 20 years, are among 17 sleep-deprived neighbors who earlier this month petitioned the Leander City Council to create a "quiet zone" at RM 2243.

Federal railroad rules allow cities to seek such a status, which bars train engineers from blowing the horn at a crossing unless a specific safety threat crops up, as long as the road intersection has four-armed gates or other added measures to keep cars off the tracks. The RM 2243 rail crossing has had a "quad" gate in place since early 2009, more than a year before MetroRail began service last month. It's one of the few stretches of the 32-mile commuter rail line from Leander to downtown

See **RAIL**, A4

GULF OF MEXICO

Oil reaching shore; damage might eclipse Exxon Valdez disaster

By Cain Burdeau and Holbrook Mohr

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VENICE, La. — An oil spill that threatened to eclipse even the Exxon Valdez disaster started washing ashore along the Gulf Coast on Thursday night as fishermen rushed to scoop up shrimp and crews spread floating barriers around marshes.

By sunset Thursday, fingers of oily sheen had crept into the South Pass of the Mississippi River delta and were lapping at the Louisiana shoreline in long, thin lines.

"It is of grave concern," said David Kennedy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "I am frightened. This is a very, very big thing. And the efforts that are going to be required to do anything about it, especially if it continues on, are just mind-boggling."

The slick from the oil rig that exploded and sank last week could become the nation's worst environmental disaster in decades, threatening hundreds of species of fish, birds and other wildlife along the Gulf Coast, one of the world's richest seafood grounds, teeming with shrimp, oysters and other marine life.

See **SPILL**, A9

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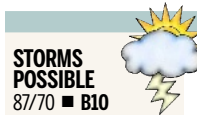
TOUGH QUESTIONS

State senators grill comptroller's office about recent appliance rebate fiasco

BUSINESS IN METRO & STATE | B9

AIRLINES LINKING UP?

Reports indicate that United, Continental soon will announce they are merging



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