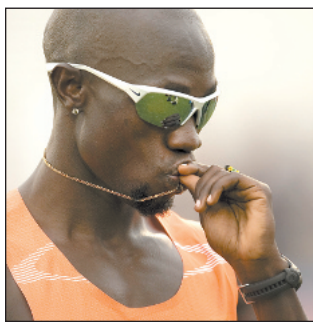


Austin American-Statesman

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TRACKHERO

Olympic flag bearer Lopez Lomong, one of Sudan's 'Lost Boys,' trained in Austin

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finalidol?

Judges' pick will battle it out with upstart



AUSTIN ■ TRANSPORTATION

Cap Metro to take \$10 million line of credit

Safety net needed after tax revenue and reserves dwindled, officials say

By Ben Wear

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The Capital Metro board, facing falling sales tax revenue just as its reserves have been depleted to near zero, decided 6-1 Monday to establish a \$10 million line

of credit.

The contingency cash, which the agency could use only for capital items such as the commuter rail project, would be available from JPMorgan Chase Bank for the next year at interest rates between 2.75 percent and 3.5 percent. Any money borrowed would have to be paid back by May 31, 2010.

The agency has never before in its 24-year history had to take out a line of credit.

"It's a safety net," said Randy Hume,

Capital Metro's chief financial officer. "Our hope is that we wouldn't have to draw on it."

Fred Gilliam, Capital Metro's president and chief executive, indicated several weeks ago, when officials forecast that the agency's reserves would fall to about \$10 million by September, that such a step might be necessary.

The agency had more than \$200 million in reserves as recently as 2002. But it spent

See **CREDIT**, A6



Fred Gilliam
Capital Metro president forecast move weeks ago.

VEHICLE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Obama seeks green autos

Groups praise stricter rules expected to be unveiled today

By John M. Broder

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will announce tough new nationwide rules for automobile emissions and mileage standards today, embracing regulations that California has sought to enact for years over the objections of the auto industry and the Bush administration.

The rules, which will begin to take effect in 2012, will impose the first limits on climate-altering gases from cars and trucks.

The effect will be a single new national standard that will create a car and light truck fleet in the U.S. that is almost 40 percent cleaner and more fuel-efficient by 2016 than it is today, with an average of 35.5 miles per gallon.

Environmental advocates and industry officials welcomed the new program, but for different reasons.

Environmentalists called it a long overdue tightening of emission and fuel economy standards after decades of government delay and industry opposition.

"In addition to dramatically reducing the global warming emissions from our vehicles, this move will slash our dependence on oil and make us more energy independent," Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope said in a

See **VEHICLES**, A7

INSIDE THIS SECTION

More jail checks for immigrants

Obama administration plan could lead to ten-fold increase in deportation cases, **A5**

TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The House that Joe built is a moderate one

By Jason Embry

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF



Joe Straus

The Texas House, tightly controlled by conservatives just a couple of years ago, has become downright moderate.

The House demonstrated its newfound moderation under first-term Speaker Joe Straus by passing a series of bills last week that probably would have struggled to emerge from the chamber under former Speaker Tom Craddick.

One of those bills would make more families eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program. Another would impose new spending restrictions on corporations and unions in political campaigns. One would lay the groundwork for reversing a major workers' compensation decision by the all-Republican Texas Supreme Court, and another would create a commission to investigate wrongful criminal convictions.

"Neither extreme of either party should win the House floor vote," said Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, D-San Antonio. "It's really going to come from the consensus in the middle, and

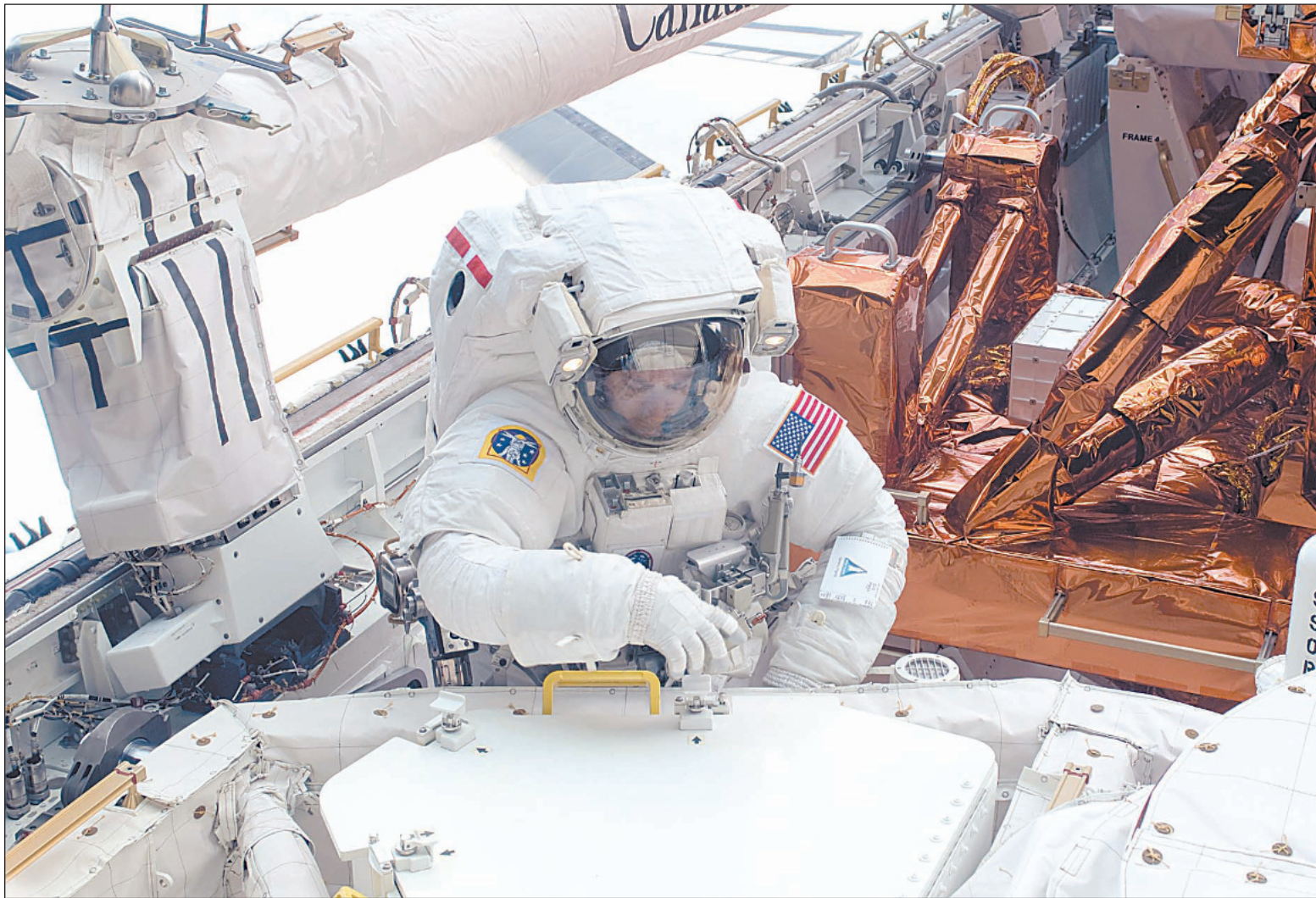
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■ Oversight of state schools advances, **B1**

■ Babies' blood legislation goes to Perry, **B1**

SPACE ■ RESEARCH

A scientific star is reborn: Hubble gets makeover



NASA

Astronaut Mike Massimino overcame a challenge while refurbishing the Hubble Space Telescope on Sunday: He had to pry loose a stuck handle

from an instrument. Such tasks are especially dangerous in the vacuum of space, where an encounter with something sharp can be deadly.

By Joel Achenbach

THE WASHINGTON POST

There's a new telescope in the heavens. It has a familiar name: the Hubble Space Telescope. But this is a new creature altogether.

Just a few days ago, the Hubble had a single major scientific instrument: a 16-year-old camera. It also had an aiming device that freelanced a little bit of science in its spare time. Everything else was kaput. The most advanced camera had been dead for two years and the spectrograph for nearly five.

Now the Hubble has four new or rejuvenated scientific instruments. Plus new batteries. New gyros. A new computer. The upgraded telescope

Five days of 'miracle' spacewalks give new life to aging telescope

has vision so keen it can peer back through time to when the very first, ungainly galaxies were pulling themselves together. It will study the atmospheres of planets orbiting other stars. It will look for tendrils of dark matter wriggling through the intergalactic void.

"We have a brand-new observatory with full capability that will be more productive than

ever in its scientific lifetime," said Jon Morse, head of astrophysics for NASA.

The Hubble was refurbished and overhauled during five days of difficult, frustrating, ultimately triumphant spacewalks by astronauts aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. This was the final servicing mission to the Hubble, and it was a "tour de force of tools and human ingenuity," in the words of astronaut John Grunsfeld as he completed the last spacewalk. He and crewmate Andrew Feustel had installed new batteries and guidance systems and replaced old insulation on the exterior of the telescope with new layers of thermal protection.

See **HUBBLE**, A6

CONSUMERS ■ FINANCE

Careful credit card users may pay as rules tighten

By Andrew Martin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Credit cards have long been a good deal for people who pay their bills on time and in full. Even as card companies imposed punitive fees and penalties on those late with their payments, the best customers racked up cash-back rewards, frequent flier miles and other perks in recent years.

Now, Congress is moving to limit the penalties on riskier borrowers, who have become a prime source of billions of dollars in fee revenue for the industry. And to make up for lost income, the card companies are going after those

people with sterling credit.

Banks are expected to look at reviving annual fees, curtailing cash-back and other reward programs and charging interest immediately on a purchase instead of allowing a weeklong grace period, according to bank officials and trade groups.

"It will be a different business," said Edward L. Yingling, CEO of the American Bankers Association, which has been lobbying Congress for more lenient legislation on behalf of the nation's biggest banks. "Those that manage their credit well will in some

See **PLASTIC**, A5

WHITE HOUSE ■ MIDEAST TALKS



Charles Dharapak ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama raises pressure on Iran

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House on Monday, President Barack Obama appeared to set a time limit for Iran to negotiate a solution to objections concerning its nuclear program. **Story**, A4.

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