

IN SPORTS | C1
SMALLBALL
UT baseball coach Garrido still has a firm belief in the power of the bunt

IN LIFE & STYLE | D1
PHOTOPERFECT
For celebrity photographs, local artist pares away ‘all the unnecessary things’



IN SPORTS | C1
A RETURN TO FORM?
After 5 years off, ex-PGA Tour star Hal Sutton brings his revamped game to Triton Financial Classic

THE BIG DANCE Big Range Dance Festival provides an off-season outlet for indie modern dancers **AUSTIN360** ▶

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TEXAS ■ ELECTIONS

Buckle up for big year in politics

Major statewide races promise an exciting ride ahead

By **W. Gardner Selby**
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Many expected the 2010 political season to launch like a thunderous horse race this summer.

As soon as July 4, the prevailing scenario went, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Gov. Rick Perry would kick off competing Republican campaigns for governor, prompting others ranging from Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to Attorney General Greg Abbott to state Sen. Kirk Watson of Austin to clarify their political goals by Labor Day.

That vision could yet play out; Democratic lobbyist Thomas Ratliff on Wednesday announced plans to challenge Republican Don McLeRoy for his seat on the State Board of Education, Republican Susan Combs declared for a second term as state

See **POLITICS**, A4

MIDEAST ■ POLITICS

Beset on two sides, Obama hones pitch to Muslim world

By **Jeff Zeleny** and **Helene Cooper**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Aiming to repair the U.S. relationship with the Muslim world, President Barack Obama was greeted Wednesday with reminders of the vast gulfs his speech today must bridge, as voices as disparate as al Qaeda's and the Israeli government's competed to shape how Obama's message would be heard.

In a new audiotape, al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden condemned Obama for planting what he called new seeds of "hatred and vengeance" among Muslims, while in Jerusalem, senior Israeli officials complained that Obama was rewriting old understandings by taking a harder line against new Israeli settlements.

The bin Laden message blamed U.S. pressure for Pakistan's offensive — which he called a campaign of "kill-

See **HONES**, A6

IN METRO & STATE | B1

Authorities break up major drug ring in Austin

AUSTIN

Neighbor arrested in student's death



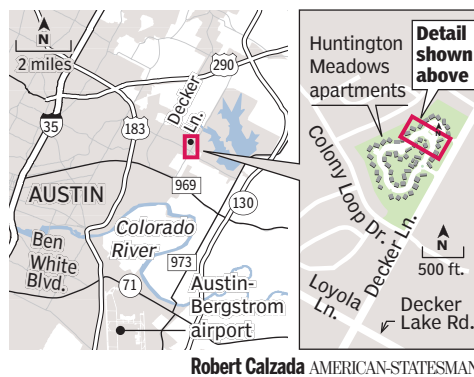
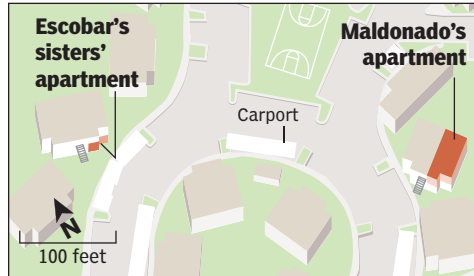
Larry Kolvoord photos AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Lydia Escobar, a sister of murder suspect Areli Escobar, talks with an apartment manager, who declined to give his name, shortly after she learned that her brother had been charged in the death of Bianca Maldonado.

Teen put up 'fight for her life,' police say

Site of homicide

Bianca Maldonado was found slain at her home Sunday morning. The suspect, Areli Carbajal Escobar, was staying at his sisters' apartment a short distance away, one sister said.



Robert Calzada AMERICAN-STATESMAN



Police fingerprint powder is visible on the door frame and window frame of the Huntington Meadows apartment where the body of 17-year-old Bianca Maldonado was found Sunday by her mother and sister.

By **Claire Osborn, Chelsea Duttweiler** and **Isadora Vail**
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

A 17-year-old girl, alone in her family's apartment with her 1-year-old son, is attacked by a stranger. She puts up a fight but is overpowered, raped and stabbed to death. And the suspect's girlfriend might have heard the attack as she listened in by cell phone.

That's the chilling story Austin police tell in the death of Bianca Maldonado, an LBJ High School student whose body was found Sunday morning by her mother and sister.

Police said Wednesday that they have arrested Areli Carbajal Escobar, a 30-year-old man who lived a few buildings away from Maldonado at the Huntington Meadows apartments in East Austin. Escobar faces a charge of capital murder.

When police interviewed Escobar on Tuesday, he had a 2½-inch laceration on the back of his hand and scratches on his face and elbow, police said. He was arrested that day and was in the Travis County Jail on Wednesday without bail, records show.

Police said Maldonado fought to protect herself and her child.

"Bianca Maldonado, I think there is no other way to put it, she put up a fight for her life," Lt. Mark Spangler said at a news conference

See **ARRESTED**, A4



Areli Carbajal Escobar had scratches, lacerations, police say.



Bianca Maldonado was alone with her child in apartment.

Online
Read the arrest affidavit on **statesman.com**.



Angelica Escobar is the estranged wife of murder suspect Areli Escobar. Though often separated, they have been together since they were 14 and have five children, her mother said.

AUSTIN

Police: Mom put human waste into girl's IV line

Woman charged with injury to child; act caught on camera

By **Tony Plohotski** and **Patrick George**
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

When a 3-year-old patient kept having setbacks during her recovery, doctors at Dell Children's Medical Center suspected that the child's mother was to blame, Austin police said Wednesday.

They set up a hidden camera in the child's hospital room that police and court records said soon recorded Emily Beth McDonald smearing human waste on the girl's intravenous line, which can cause potentially life-threatening illnesses.

McDonald, a 23-year-old mother of three who wrote essays and blogged about giving birth to premature children, now faces a charge of injury to a child, a first-degree felony that carries a sentence of life in prison. She was arrested Sunday.

"The medical records showed the child would start getting better, and feces most likely would get introduced," said Chris Hallas, an Austin police child abuse detective.

Doctors said McDonald's actions created a "substantial risk for death," according to an



Emily Beth McDonald knew of risk to her child, affidavit says.

See **ILLNESS**, A4

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See YouTube videos provided by Emily McDonald and read a 2007 Q&A on the challenges she faced with her premature baby with this story online.

CHINA ■ MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY



Kin Cheung ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Hong Kong, Joe Lung marks the 20th anniversary of the deadly suppression in Beijing.

Soldier-turned-artist recounts crackdown at Tiananmen Square

By **Andrew Jacobs**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING — Soaked in sweat, his heart racing, Chen Guang descended the steps of China's Great Hall of the People and aimed his automatic rifle at the sea of student protesters occupying Tiananmen Square. A 17-year-old soldier from the countryside, Chen and his comrades had been given orders to clear the symbolic heart of the nation, even if it meant spilling blood.

"We were assured there would be no legal consequences if we opened fire," Chen said Tuesday. "My only hope was that the students would not put up a fight."

Twenty years after Chinese troops shot their way into the center of Beijing, killing hundreds of people and wounding many more, Chen provided a rare window into the military crackdown that re-established the Communist

See **MASSACRE**, back page

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