

## NEW SUBDIVISION

San Marcos city leaders seeking public opinion on Paso Robles development ■ B4

## NO TAGGING

San Antonio's Art in Action program helps teens transform graffiti-prone areas into murals ■ B5



**BEN WEAR**  
GETTING THERE

## Interstate 69 story is quite a compelling trip

From time to time, publishers send me books on transportation. Most of the time it's a chore making it past the first page of a book laden with wonkishness or blatant bias, or both. But now and then comes a book where, instead, the pages fly by, and mourning sets in when the last page arrives.

"Interstate 69: The Unfinished History of the Last Great American Highway," written by former New Yorker staffer Matt Dellinger and available in stores starting Tuesday, falls into that latter category. Yes, a book about a highway. Or in this case, a book about the 20-years-and-counting fight over a proposed highway extension, one that so far has only a couple of isolated stretches built. But the book is much more than that.

Dellinger, who grew up in Indianapolis, has written 310 graceful pages about how things, big things, get done — and undone — in America. About the way the mishmash of local boosterism, politics from city hall to the statehouse to Capitol Hill, high-dollar lobbyists and grass-roots activism somehow produces a result. About how interstate highway construction began in the 1950s and petered out by 1990, and what those thousands of miles of asphalt and exit ramps have wrought.

What distinguishes "Interstate 69" is how personal it seems, and how fair. Dellinger, who worked on the book for almost a decade, managed to gain the trust of both the chamber of commerce types and politicians who support building the extension of I-69

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### TECHMONDAY INSIDE, B6-7

## Samsung praise

Trio of Android-powered smart phones earning electronics giant tech kudos

## PolitiFact Texas

Sorting out the truth in politics



**Debbie Riddle**

**Statement:** "Over 81 percent of the babies that are born at LBJ Hospital right here in Houston are born of women who are not here legally."

## Percentages for 'terror babies' just aren't adding up

By **W. Gardner Selby** and **Meghan Ashford-Grooms**  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

State Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Tomball, has long expressed concerns about illegal immigration. She sounded that theme anew Aug. 10 during an appearance on CNN, telling host Anderson Cooper that mothers who are illegal residents routinely have babies in the United States to "anchor" their families in this country.

"The fact is, it is documented," Riddle said. "Over 81 percent of the babies that are born at LBJ Hospital right here in Houston are born of women who are not here legally. It is well-known that women come over here, cross the border in order to have the babies here, because once they get here and once that little American citizen is born and becomes an anchor baby — look, I'm a grandmother of 10, I love children, but the fact is this is breaking the back of the taxpayers of Texas and the United States."

Eighty-one percent? Documented, well-known? We decided to check Riddle's claim, remembering that PolitiFact recently rated as Half True a statement by South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham that people come here to have babies and then leave.

While there's ample evidence that many illegal immigrants give birth in the United

See **POLITIFACT**, B5

### CENTRAL TEXAS ■ LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Shooting suspect on loose

Temple, Lorena officials say man accused of slaying, burglary, sexual assault

By **Patrick George**  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Temple police issued a public warning Sunday as they searched for a 40-year-old man they say shot another man to death

in Temple and then committed a burglary and a sexual assault in Lorena before escaping in a stolen minivan.

Police said Anthony Wayne O'Neal is armed and dangerous and could be headed to Killeen, San Antonio or New Orleans.

"We consider this to be a violent predator who has demonstrated a disregard for human life," said Sgt. Brad Hunt of the Temple Police Department.

Police said O'Neal was charged with

murder after the shooting at an apartment complex early Sunday. Temple police said that about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, O'Neal got into an argument with Paul Michael Caldera, 24, inside Caldera's apartment in the 3000 block of Antelope Trail. Police said the argument ended with O'Neal shooting Caldera in the chest, killing him, and stealing his gold 2000 Cadillac sedan.

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**Anthony Wayne O'Neal** is dangerous, police say.

### CENTRAL TEXAS ■ FUNDRAISER

## A sizzling Austin indulges in Italian cool



**Julia Robinson** AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Leah Linnet of Austin admires some vintage Alfa Romeos on Sunday during La Piazza Italiana at Laguna Gloria in West Austin. Linnet said she came

to the festival, which raises money for the Austin Museum of Art, because she wanted a little preview of Italy before she travels there next month.

La Piazza Italiana festival provides a chance to sip wine, admire Ferraris and kick back

By **Isadora Vail**  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Elsa Gramola said the seventh annual La Piazza Italiana festival on Sunday at Laguna Gloria in West Austin had everything an Italian plaza should: good food, good music and fancy cars.

Gramola, a cooking teacher who is originally from Sicily and organizes the festival every year, said the idea behind it is to replicate an Italian plaza in Austin. So she had a violinist, an accordionist and an opera singer setting the mood musically, and guests could sample olive oil and wine on the grounds of Laguna Gloria. Nearby, local Ferrari owners were putting on a show, letting people peek inside the sports cars.

"With this festival, I try to give a taste of Italy," Gramola said. "There's wine, crafts and fancy cars and Vespas — which are big deals in Italy."

Luke Graves Sr. attended the festival with one

of his fancy cars, a 2002 Ferrari 360 Modena. Graves, a retired Air Force fighter pilot and a member of the Hill Country Ferrari Club, said he's visited Italy a few times and hopes to return to visit the Ferrari factory one day.

"We've been coming to the festival with the club for years," Graves said. "There's nothing more Italian than a Ferrari."

Near Graves' car, two University of Texas students sought relief in the shade from the 100-degree temperatures.

Nicole Conti said she heard about the festival

See **COOL**, back page

### AUSTIN



**Rodolfo Gonzalez** AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Free to bare more than arms?

Brian Thomas marches with his girlfriend, Kayla Korte, as they participate in a GoTopless demonstration in downtown Austin on Sunday. The group says it supports a woman's right to go topless and considers it discrimination that in many places only men can be barechested.

### TEXAS

## Supporters call for release of past Hispanic leader

Former gubernatorial hopeful serving life for drug charges

By **Elida S. Perez**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Ramsey Muniz received 214,149 votes as a third-party candidate in Texas' 1972 gubernatorial race. Nearly 22 years later, he received a life sentence for drug charges.

Now the candidate-turned-convict, 67, spends his days in a federal prison hoping a last-ditch effort to free him will succeed before it's too late.

Muniz has been a political activist, a Hispanic leader, a political candidate, a high school and college football star, a drug felon, a bail jumper, a fugitive and now, aging inmate No. 40288-115. A series of federal drug convictions culminated in a 1994 life sentence without parole for charges of possession of and intent to distribute cocaine.

Since his incarceration, he has been the subject of an intense effort to get him out of prison. His wife, Irma Muniz, and the League

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