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Metro, back page

NATION

Funding OK'd for Iraq, Afghanistan

A divided House of Representatives approved a \$105.9 billion emergency spending bill to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. 7A

Also: A White House climate report warns that global warming is getting worse. 5A

WORLD

Obama wants to halt North Korea pattern

President Barack Obama has pledged to break the pattern of North Korea's threats followed by negotiations. 10A

BUSINESS

New agency would police lenders

A new regulatory agency will be announced today to police lenders and protect consumers in banking transactions. 3D

NEW

ECONOMY & YOU

Boomers can retire without debt

Four strategies for baby boomers who want to retire debt-free. 13A

SPORTSDAY

Sosa may have tested positive

Former Ranger Sammy Sosa reportedly tested positive for a banned substance in 2003 while he was with the Cubs. 1C

GUIDEDAILY



Sugarland, Swift win country awards

Taylor Swift won video of the year, and Sugarland (above) won duo of the year at the Country Music Television awards. 1E

INSIDE

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AUTO INDUSTRY

As gas prices retreated from \$4, demand for SUVs, trucks accelerated again, but now...



BEN TORRES/Special Contributor

An area of the lot at Sam Pack's Five Star Ford in Carrollton held more than 50 Expeditions and 50 Explorers about this time last year. Now there are four Expeditions and less than 10 Explorers on the lot.

Dealers could see supplies exhausted

By TERRY BOX
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If you've got your eye on a new SUV, don't blink.

It might be gone. Even with the auto industry mired in depression — sales are down nationally 36.5 percent — big vehicles such as the Ford Expedition and Chevy Tahoe are in tight supply because of drastic production cuts that automakers imposed last year as sales began to plummet.

Now, a year after \$4-a-gallon gas nearly killed SUVs, some dealers in this market are selling them for window-sticker prices. Moreover, most late-model used pickups and SUVs have regained all of the thousands of dollars in trade-in value they lost last summer, dealers say.

Dealers love for demand to exceed supply, but many are concerned that they could run short of profitable trucks if the economy improves in the second half of the year. Their supply of cars — particularly compacts — remains high, they say.

"When you go through the inventory, you find we've got an 18-day supply of Expedition ELs," said Sam Pack, who owns Five Star Ford in North Richland Hills, Sam Pack's Five Star Ford in Carrollton and Ford Country in Lewisville. "That's too low. It starts costing you sales."

"We're very short of Expeditions and [Lincoln] Navigators," said Randall Reed, owner of Prestige Ford-Lincoln-Mercury in Garland and Park Cities Ford-Lincoln-Mer-

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BY THE NUMBERS Car, truck production

Production in North America through June 13, compared with the same period last year:

CARS
1,509,084
-49.4%

TRUCKS
1,745,752
-50.9%

TOTAL
3,254,836
-50.2%

SOURCE: Automotive News

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION | ANALYSIS

Obama walks thin line in Iran conflict

Administration tries to express support without 'meddling' in protests

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The tumult touched off by Iran's disputed presidential election could eventually transform the entire Middle East. But it has relegated President Barack Obama to the status of an onlooker.

Many U.S. officials think the eruption of anti-government protests could spark reforms within the Iranian regime, which in turn could ease hostilities across the region. Or, it could lead to a crackdown by increas-

ingly insecure rulers who grow more dangerous as they react more harshly.

Either way, U.S. officials say their course is clear: To say little and do even less.

"It's not productive, given the history of the U.S.-Iranian relationship, to be seen as meddling," Obama said Tuesday.

Obama administration officials recognize an Iranian sensitivity to U.S.

See OBAMA Page 9A

INSIDE: As protests in Iran continue, officials promise to hold a small recount. 9A



MARIO TAMA/Getty Images

Protests against the disputed election continued Tuesday at the United Nations in New York.

TRANSPORTATION

Did toll agency overpay for 121?

\$3.2B highway deal weighs on officials facing rate hikes

By MICHAEL A. LINDENBERGER
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Was \$3.2 billion too much to pay for the State Highway 121 toll road?

That's a question top officials of the North Texas Tollway Authority are asking themselves as they consider a staff proposal to send tolls soaring on all of its highways by Sept. 1.

UPDATE Rate increases

It's a question that was asked two years ago, too, when state and local officials awarded NTTA the rights to the richest new toll road contract in American history. But it wasn't one that officials in North Texas asked for long.

With every dollar of the massive payment, made in cash by NTTA and reserved for roads, rail and bike trails in North Texas, officials were eager to spend the badly needed money. Scram-

The NTTA finance committee did not vote on a proposal to increase toll rates. 2A

See 121 Page 2A

DALLAS

How to put city's courts in fast lane

Task force urges expanding hours, boosting technology

By STEVE THOMPSON
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Fight a traffic citation in Dallas, and it will be nine months before your case makes it to court — where there's a good chance it will be dismissed because no police officer shows up to testify.

INSIDE: List of proposals to cut backlog and improve services. 12A

Facing a crippling backlog of about 114,000 cases, which grows by more than 1,000 cases a month, the city's courts have been grappling during the past year with how to overhaul an inefficient and overwhelmed system.

On Tuesday, a city task force presented its recommendations to mem-

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