

Austin has fewest jobless

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The city of Austin's unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent to continue as the city with the lowest unemployment rate, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. West Virginia remained as the highest unemployment state in the nation during April at 19 percent, despite an improved level from the previous month.

Johnstown, Pa., also retained its status as having the highest jobless rate among metropolitan areas at 24.4 percent, unchanged from March and well ahead of second-worse Duluth-

Superior, Minn., at 20.4 percent. Hawaii, at 6.1 percent, had the lowest rate for a state.

The data was not adjusted for seasonal factors and compares to a 10 percent unadjusted national jobless rate for April.

West Virginia, which has led the nation in unemployment for several months, showed a decline from the 20.1 percent rate of March to 19 percent in April, but the Mountain State — hard hit by mining unemployment — was still far ahead of second-place Michigan at 15.5 percent. The department also released data Tuesday on jobs available

through state employment banks during April, showing 209,000 openings for permanent, full-time jobs listed during the month, of which 94,900, or 45 percent, were still available May 1.

The state and metropolitan unemployment report showed five metropolitan areas in Pennsylvania among the highest 10 in the nation, not including cities in Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee, for which the department said data was not available.

In March, seven Michigan cities — Battle Creek, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Flint, Detroit,

Jackson, Muskegon-Norton Shores-Muskegon Heights, and Saginaw — all had rates above 15.9 percent, which was the level for Erie, Pa., in 10th place for cities without the Michigan data.

Following Austin with low rates were Raleigh-Durham, N.C., 4.2 percent; Stanford, Conn., 4.5 percent; Gainesville, Fla., and Lawrence, Kan., both 4.6 percent; Washington, D.C., 4.9 percent; Nashua, N.H., and Lincoln, Neb., both 5 percent; Newport News-Hampton, Va., 5.1 percent, and Richmond, Va., Burlington, Vt., and San Angelo, Texas, all at 5.2 percent.

Senate pay battle becoming partisan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate faced another battle over its salary Tuesday, and it was turning into a partisan issue.

Amendments expected to be offered to a supplemental spending bill would raise pay to \$100,000 a year and bar lecture and writing fees, give senators a choice of a raise to \$69,000 and a limit of 30 percent of that amount on fees for speeches and writing, maintain their current \$60,662 salary with unlimited outside fees, or cut salaries to \$36,000 a year for a seven-month session and establish a commission to set congressional pay.

The salary cut may be offered by Republican leader Howard

Baker. Baker, who is retiring at the end of this term, said it was likely that no option would have enough votes and that last week's decision would stand, leaving senators pay at \$60,662 — about \$9,000 less than House members — and limiting to 30 percent of that any outside earned income.

A GOP leadership aide said no single alternative has enough votes to pass, but that if any move is made to raise pay, it would have to be done with Democratic votes.

"We're not going to provide all the votes on this," he said. "Nobody wants to cast a vote on a pay raise. It would be interpreted as a vote for a pay raise."



Free fall

staff photo by Barry Papke

Carl Blue is enjoying his summer vacation at Haswell Pool in Bryan. Like his friends, he just happens to spend some

of the time in the air. Carl is a resident of Bryan while on the ground.

Airplane crashes, kills one

United Press International
LAGRANGE — A LaGrange man was killed and another man injured in the crash of a small craft one mile south of town Monday night, the Department of Public Safety reported. Pilot Terry Glenn Wade, 34, was killed and passenger, Stephen Charles Highsmith, 24, was hurt when their light plane hit an engine stall, plowed through a barn and piled into a roadside ditch about 8 p.m. DT Monday.

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