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## Austin

### City council planning to annex nearby land

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Austin City Council has declared its intention to annex strips of land along the Colorado River and on highways to prevent central Texas cities from blocking Austin's growth.

The strip annexations would extend Austin development controls across the Bastrop County line and into eastern Williamson County.

By annexing strips along roads and the river, the city is able to extend development controls without having to annex large tracts and provide services to them.

The city gains control over within five miles of the new city every time land is annexed.

The annexations would extend Austin's development controls to miles from the city of Bastrop, 2 1/4 miles from Elgin, 3/4 of a mile from Coupland, 2 1/4 miles from Taylor, 2 1/4 miles from Hutto, and east the Cedar Creek community.

"I think the idea is to designate an area that we can be active in growth management controls," Councilman Mark Rose said Monday. The annexation process is scheduled to start by public hearing May 22.

## 2 Texas counties cited for fastest growth in nation

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Long-time residents of Fort Bend and Montgomery counties remember when everyone knew each other.

"Now it's almost like shopping with strangers," said Lynette Self, mayor pro tem of Rosenberg in Fort Bend County.

Fort Bend, southwest of Houston, and Montgomery, north of Houston, were cited this week by a national survey as the nation's fastest growing counties since 1980.

"Some people enjoyed having the opportunity to know everybody in town, and the slower lifestyle and the smaller class sizes," said Olen Petty, city administrator in Conroe, the Montgomery County seat. "It's impossible to satisfy everybody, but our goal is to preserve the best quality of life we can."

Dun & Bradstreet statistics put Fort Bend's population growth at 46 percent, from 52,314 in 1970 to an estimated 192,099 now.

Montgomery had a 45 percent growth rate. Figures show the 49,479 residents in 1970 grew to 164,869 now.

Because of the rapid growth last year, Fort Bend added a new wing to

its jail. Court dockets now are crowded. The Fort Bend Independent School District has had to build five schools in the past 15 months.

"Our greatest problem has been providing facilities," said Ron LeBoeuf, Fort Bend school superintendent. "We're almost caught up but we're still building."

In Montgomery County, Sheriff Joe Corley said he needs three times the jail space he now has. County officials say they need space for parks, courts, libraries and offices.

Officials in both counties say access to Houston and the country-style life has made the counties attractive places to live.

"Fresh air and open spaces is the thing," Fort Bend County Judge Jodie Stavinoha said. "It's accessible to the beaches, we're close to Houston. You can go to ball game or go to the opera."

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation estimates predict the boom times will continue for the two adjacent counties. By the turn of the century, the state is predicting population of both counties to be virtually the same at 315,000.

## Woman pleads innocent to child-stealing charges

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — A woman pleaded innocent Tuesday to abducting her two children from Fresno 1 1/2 years ago and living with them in hiding until their discovery after a nationally broadcast television movie on missing children.

Terry LaNotte, 34, was arraigned on two counts each of child stealing and disobeying a visitation order. Municipal Court Judge Steve Vartabedian set a preliminary hearing June 5 on the felony charges.

She left court with plans for a private meeting with her children, Teresa McDonald, 9, and Edwin McDonald IV, 7, at the office of an attorney appointed to represent their interests in a continuing custody dispute with her ex-husband, Dr. Edwin McDonald III, a Fresno anesthesiologist.

Ms. LaNotte returned to Fresno 180 miles southeast of San Francisco Monday night after waiving extradition from Denton, Texas, on criminal charges.

The children were found April 19 after the girl's picture was broadcast after the showing of the movie "Adam," on a missing child.

A Supreme Court judge granted Ms. LaNotte custody of the children and granted her former husband unsupervised visitation rights in 1983, but she fled, charging he mistreated the children, said her attorney, George Carter.

A judge in Denton ruled early Monday that he had no alternative to return the children to their mother, who won legal but not physical custody of the children after LaNotte fled. He brought them back to Fresno that day.

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