

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

Florida, Texas hold nine of 10 fastest growing metro regions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Florida and Texas include nine of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas, but the only change in the Top 10 saw the Washington, D.C., region edge ahead of economically besieged Houston.

The Washington area added 78,300 people between 1986 and 1987 to climb to No. 9 among the nation's metropolitan regions, according to Census Bureau figures released Thursday.

In moving up, it edged ahead of Houston, a metropolis plagued by falling oil prices that lost 21,000 people over the year, the Census Bureau estimated.

The 1987 figures show Washington with 3,646,000 people to Houston's 3,626,300.

The Los Angeles region was second with 13,470,900, followed by Chicago, 8,146,900; San Francisco, 5,953,100 and Philadelphia, 5,890,600.

Rounding out the top 10 were Detroit, Boston, Dallas, Washington and Houston.

While the Census study didn't include growth rates for all metro areas, here it lists the fastest growing metro areas between 1980 and 1987:

1. Naples, Fla., 127,900, up 49 percent.
2. Ocala, Fla., 181,300, up 48 percent.
3. Fort Myers, Fla., 294,600, up 48 percent.
4. Fort Pierce, Fla., 215,400, up 47 percent.
5. Austin, Texas, 738,000, up 47 percent.
6. Melbourne, Fla., 374,900, up 37 percent.
7. West Palm Beach, Fla., 790,000, up 37 percent.
8. Las Cruces, N.M., 128,800, up 34 percent.

Death toll rises after child found in pile of debris

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) The death toll from a six-story condominium that collapsed and slid down a steep hillside rose to at least five when the body of a 19-month-old girl was pulled early Thursday from the rubble.

The bodies of two maids were recovered earlier, and another maid is still missing in the huge slabs of cement and other debris.

apment, especially of the high-rise apartment buildings proliferating in the area, was not properly regulated.

Rainfall in the Sierra Madre Oriental, where many of city's most costly housing is, has contributed to erosion of streets and rockslides.

The complex, built on six cement pillars and connected to the hillside by a pedestrian walkway, collapsed shortly before 9 a.m. Tuesday, killing a man and his baby son and injuring the child's mother who was trapped inside for four hours.

Garza said the state is asking the architect, Jose Maria Hernandez, to give a statement about residents' complaints that the building was unsafe.

Garza said residents said they filed a complaint last year with Hernandez about serious cracks in the floors and signs of severe stress in the support pillars.

But he said no complaint had been found in state or municipal offices in the Monterrey suburb of San Pedro-Garza Garcia, where the condominium was located.

Residents of several of the wealthy hillside neighborhoods and Monterrey's association of architects have complained for years that devel-

opment, especially of the high-rise apartment buildings proliferating in the area, was not properly regulated.

Rainfall in the Sierra Madre Oriental, where many of city's most costly housing is, has contributed to erosion of streets and rockslides.

State Judicial Police investigators Francisco Nakashima said in an interview this week that heavy rain unleashed by Hurricane Gilbert Sept. 17 could have been a factor in the collapse of the building, which was in a natural drainage area of the hillside.

Bertha Plascencia, San Pedro-Garza Garcia planning and urbanization director, said that a neighborhood associations' complaints had led the city to take measures in 1987 to better regulate construction of the hillside and limit the number of dwellings.

She said the 3-year-old condominium was built before the regulations were in place.

"It's lamentable that in spite of the fact that there was movement of the building, no precautions were taken," Plascencia said by telephone.

Jose Humberto Sanchez, president of the Monterrey Lawyers College, told the daily Monterrey newspaper *El Norte* the state government should be held responsible for ensuring enforcement of urban development laws.

Brazilian jet hijacked on routine trip to Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A Brazilian jetliner with more than 98 people aboard was hijacked Thursday by a man who killed the co-pilot and at least one passenger, officials said.

Mona Cury, a spokesman for the VASP, or Viação Aerea Sao Paulo airline, said Flight 375 was on its daily run from the Amazon jungle city of Porto Velho to Rio de Janeiro on the southeast Atlantic coast when it was hijacked.

Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma said in Brasilia, the capital, that the hijacker was a man who apparently was mentally disturbed.

Col. Eden Avsolinque, an air force spokesman, said in Brasilia

that the hijacker came into the cockpit and forced the crew to surrender.

He said the plane was ordered flown to Brasilia, 750 miles northwest of Rio. However, bad weather forced the pilot to land in Goiania, a city 150 miles from Brasilia, he said.

Avsolinque said an Air Force jet intercepted the hijacked plane and accompanied it to Goiania. State and federal police surrounded the plane, and an Air Force official was negotiating with the hijacker, he said.

During the hijacking, the co-pilot and a passenger were killed, possibly by gunfire, the airport authority at Rio's Galeao International Airport said.

Bush's savings plan leaves its beneficiaries wondering

NEW YORK (AP) — George Bush's savings plan for low- and middle-income people is likely to leave many of them scratching their heads and wondering if there was something left unsaid.

As described by Bush, it would seek to induce individuals into long-term savings plans with a reward many of them would consider niggardly. In some instances, it might amount to no reward at all.

Under the proposal, up to \$1,000 a year would accumulate tax-free if funds remained on deposit for at least five years. When spent, however, interest income would be taxed at the regular tax rate.

This, Bush explained to voters, would help them become better able to afford such things as homes, college, and small businesses as well as increasing investment and economic growth.

A quick analysis of the numbers, however, suggests that few are likely to benefit a great deal unless they leave the money on deposit for a lifetime, which rules out its use in education, homeownership or entrepreneurship.

If, for example, a person deposited \$1,000 a year for five years at 10 percent interest, a very generous and probably unobtainable rate, it would seem their account would grow to about \$6,700. But it really wouldn't.

Some, in fact, advocate that the existing IRA mechanism, rather than any new bureaucratic device, be used. Money already in IRA accounts therefore could be used for future retirement or present housing needs.

Some go further. While money removed from IRA accounts by retirees is taxed at their prevailing tax rate, money removed and invested in houses would not be taxed. Trust housing lobbyists to think of that one.

Opposition to such ideas deals mainly with the cost. Critics say that a nation already scourged by deficit spending cannot afford to lose more revenue.

The counter argument is that Americans deserve good housing and make better citizens when they own property. Moreover, supporters contend, what better way to hedge against inflation and prepare for retirement than to own a house?

Senate gives thumbs up to welfare bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate gave a near unanimous stamp of approval Thursday to the first major welfare overhaul in over half a century, seeking to turn the system into a gate of opportunity rather than a long-term trap.

"For the first time in its half-century existence, the U.S. Senate has moved to an entire redefinition and overhaul of what we come to know as our welfare system," Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., the leader of the effort, said.

The vote on the final version of the Family Welfare Reform Act was 96-1, with Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the lone opponent. The bill was headed for House approval Friday and from there to the White House, where President Reagan has expressed satisfaction with it.

The hard-won bipartisan compromise, the result of a summer of seesaw negotiations, centers on a large-scale work, education and training program to be aimed primarily at welfare mothers. Support services such as child care would be available to program participants and those moving into low-wage jobs.

Moynihan said that under the revamped system, welfare will be a permanent or extended condition. Instead, he said, the new system will stress work, child support and last-resort cash supplements while encouraging the needy to get the education and training needed to avert long-term dependence.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a key supporter of the drive, said there's no guarantee the bill will work. "But if it does only half of what we hope, it's an immense step forward," he said.

The five-year, \$3.3 billion compromise plan is modeled largely on Moynihan's Senate bill.

Grain prices rise during September

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices paid to farmers for grain and other raw products rose 0.1 percent from August to September, including the highest wheat prices in almost seven years, the Agriculture Department said Thursday.

The department's Agricultural Statistics Board said in its preliminary report that higher prices for grapefruit, milk and wheat contributed most to the September increase. Lower prices for hogs, oranges and broiler chickens partly offset the rise in other commodities.

Compared with a year earlier, the

September prices averaged 12 percent higher. Prices of some major commodities are based on mid-month averages and then are revised the following month when additional information is available.

"The mid-September prices for corn, soybeans and wheat were higher than the respective averages for the month of August," the report said. "The all-wheat price was at the highest level since November of 1981."

But the report also said that "hog prices dropped off sharply" from August.

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