

Texas surpasses New York in population according to national statistic abstract

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's bean counters are at it again, releasing statistics that measure the American way of life in details great and small — from the number of births and deaths per year to the amount of ice cream and broccoli consumed annually.

Each year since 1878, the federal government has issued its weighty Statistical Abstract of the United States, pulling together an array of statistics from dozens of government agencies and trade associations.

Dry-sounding in name and in fact, the 1997 edition issued a few days ago nonetheless offers some interesting nuggets of news to those willing to pore through its 1,023 pages.

Take the Lone Star State. In its 267,277 square miles of space (a territory second only to Alaska's 615,230 square miles), Texas packs 19.1 million residents who drive 13.6 million registered vehicles on 296,186 miles of urban and rural highways.

Those Texans eat at 16,621 restaurants and shop at 27,354 food stores, pumping their gasoline at 11,053 service stations. Overall, the state has 2,906 of the nation's 42,130 shopping centers.

Texas was one of the 10 fastest growing states between 1990 and 1996, its population rising by 12.6 percent. During that time span, Texas nudged New York aside to become the second-largest state in the nation behind California.

As of last year, the Texas population stood at 19.1 million — a 71 percent increase over the 11.2 million people living in the state in 1970.

The state boasts one of the country's youngest populations, with only 10 percent

The Census Bureau projects that the state's population will top 28 million by 2025, second only to California's 41 million estimate.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES

of its citizens 65 and older compared with a national average of nearly 13 percent.

Among the other Texas-related tidbits: —Some 5.8 million Texans drive alone to work, while another 1.1 million carpool. The typical travel time to work in Texas is

22.2 minutes, almost exactly on par with the national average of 22.4 minutes.

—Texans spent nearly \$22 billion on public elementary and secondary schools last year, an average of \$5,593 per student. The national average is \$6,103 per pupil.

—The 1995 median household income in Texas was \$32,039, slightly below the national average of \$34,076. Seventeen percent of Texans had incomes below the poverty level that year, compared with 14 percent nationally.

—The state took in \$86 billion from Washington last year, an average of \$4,522 for each Texan.

—The Census Bureau projects that the state's population will top 28 million by 2025, second only to California's 41 million estimate.

—There were 321,114 live births in Texas in 1994, the most recent year for which statistics are available. That same year, there were 136,000 deaths.

—In 1995, 188,500 Texans were joined in matrimony, while 98,400 dissolved their unions.

—Texans spent \$21.5 billion on hospital care in 1993, another \$10.5 billion on physicians' bills, and \$3.1 billion for prescription medicines.

Sweeny man says killing not for life insurance money

CLUTE (AP) — A former Sweeny funeral home owner admits he fatally shot his common-law wife more than six years ago, but denies allegations that he killed her to collect life insurance money.

Jury selection begins Monday in Jay Johnson's capital murder trial. Johnson, 65, now lives in Houston, about 50 miles northeast of the Brazoria County community of Sweeny.

Prosecutors aren't seeking the death penalty, so a conviction would result in an automatic sentence of life in prison.

"It didn't happen the way they think it happened," Johnson told The Brazosport Facts. "I came to the world with a good name and I want to leave with a good name."

On the morning of Sept. 30, 1991, Sweeny police found Edwin Prosen, 57, dead with a gaping wound in her chest in an apartment above the Sweeny Funeral Home. Johnson sat nearby.

Johnson told police he had a cramp in his left leg and right hand and accidentally shot his common-law wife in the chest with a 12-gauge shotgun.

The next day, Ms. Prosen's corpse was taken from a Houston funeral home. Later, police stopped Johnson driving a hearse carrying her body and a copy of her life insurance policy.

Johnson has said he took cause the couple had promised to handle the other's funeral, depending on who died first.

The Brazoria County district court says Johnson killed Ms. Prosen on nearly \$750,000 worth of policies, many she had written for Sweeny insurance agent.

Johnson's case has been a prosecutor's appeal state District Judge Ogden Bass' 1993 decision that certain copies of Ms. Prosen's policies. Earlier this year, the state of Criminal Appeals upheld that the documents were illegals by Ms. Prosen's children.

Bass also ruled that insurance police discovered after finding the hearse containing Ms. Prosen. She was improperly seized without a search warrant.

In April, Houston police arrested Johnson's son, Jeff Prosen, after he had been at gunpoint in the Veterans Administration Hospital parking lot. He was released unharmed.

Jeff Prosen was recently sentenced to two years' probation for the incident.

Suspects arrested in Carrollton murder

CARROLLTON (AP) — Five men were in custody Sunday on capital murder charges after the body of a teen-age girl who had been missing since Oct. 25 was found in a Grand Prairie creek.

The men were arrested Saturday in the death of Lindsay Williams, 17, of Carrollton. She had been shot several times and her body was wrapped in sheets and a garbage bag, Carrollton police said.

Investigators believe Williams was killed after she refused to divulge the location of a friend who had fled with the group's drug money.

Charged with Williams' death are: Shawn Tutton, 19, of Farmers Branch, being held in the Lew Sterrett Justice Center; two brothers, ages 15 and 16, and a 16-year-old friend, all of Carrollton, being held at the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center; and

John Harris, 19, of Carrollton, being held in Carrollton City Jail.

Tutton also was being held on \$500,000 bond on a capital murder charge in an unrelated fatal shooting described by police as drug-related. Carrollton police said they were tipped to Williams' death while investigating the other shooting.

Police said the suspects were part of a small-time drug ring.

Police believe that Williams was killed Oct. 25, the day she disappeared. Earlier in the day, she had gone with a male friend to a Carrollton apartment complex where the friend had planned to steal the suspects' drug money, Sgt. Jack Adams said.

After the money was exchanged, the friend left to pick up the marijuana but never returned.

School improvements incomplete, investigation continues

DALLAS (AP) — Pipes leak, light fixtures dangle and classrooms are chilly when it's cold outside. And that is after the Dallas Independent School District spent \$4 million on repairs.

The district and The Dallas Morning News conducted separate investigations with the same results: an energy improvement project has resulted in incomplete and shoddy work.

The findings have prompted Acting Superintendent James Hughey to advise that the contractor, Johnson Controls Inc., put off additional work until the district finds answers to its questions. The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday in a copyright story.

Michael Flores, an Irving-based manager for Johnson Controls, denied serious or widespread problems with the company's work.

He said the report by the school district's consultant, Heery International Inc., was incomplete. And he suggested problems Heery and the newspaper found were not the fault of Johnson Controls.

"Everything that was in our scope to do we have done and we have done very well," Flores said.

The energy savings project, which could cost the district up to \$120 million, was intended to save taxpayers' money in the long run.

The Dallas Morning News hired Roger Davidson, a former chief building inspector for the city, to review work on energy-saving schools where Johnson Controls formed work.

The spot-check revealed a variety of sloppily installed unsafe construction. A school custodian's newspaper reported.

At Holmes Academy, smoke detectors outside classrooms were covered with plastic tape. A school custodian's newspaper reported.

"There appears to be a lack of coordination, supervision and quality control on DISD projects," Davidson reported of his findings.

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4. You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
5. You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

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2. If your application is approved, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa or MasterCard (with your name imprinted) no later than Friday, December 12, 1997.

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