Growing pains come with rise in population

Area counties have to deal with residents’ increased expectations.

BY JANINE ZACHARIA
zmaccormack@express-news.net

As civic leaders in San Antonio and surrounding communities began digesting new census figures released Thursday, the nation’s historically fast-growing population created new financial pressures for policy makers and residents.

For starters, the eight-county area, with a population of more than 2.5 million, is rapidly becoming more urban and cohesive, is more economically and economically diverse, and appears on course for continued rapid growth.

“I don’t think the growth is going to stop,” said Judge Mike Wiggins of Guadalupe County, which saw a jump of 48 percent since 2000, from 59,000 to 131,000.

“We’re predicting the population will double again by 2037, and that seems like a long time away. But if we’re not ready it will unravel us,” he said.

Bexar and Kendall counties saw 41 percent population increases.

See COUNTRIES/1A

Robert Braud: 5A, growth puts challenge. Metro, B8

Tracking growth

Large

47.8%
KENDALL

40.7%
CALM

39.0%
Communities

SELSA

60.9%
CIBOLO

406%
TRANQUILO PARK

128%

Look up census figures by city or county at mySA.com.

FOR LONGHORNS

Nebraska edges No. 3 UT

BY ABE LEVY

The altar of Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Rocksprings. Father John Fiala (inset at right) is the subject of allegations of abuse of a Rocksprings boy.

The Church and the Priest: An accusation of abuse ignored

News reveals a royal odyssey for a priest whose career began, incongruously, in the Midwest and collapsed with criminal charges and a lawsuit alleging the rape of a 15-year-old boy in Texas.

Father John Fiala, last seen in Rocksprings last spring, was arrested in charges of sexually assaulting a man and a Dallas County justice accusing Fiala of soliciting a hit man to kill the teenager.

Victim groups see Fiala’s case amounts to an other sex-abuse cover-up by the Catholic Church.

See PRIEST/1A

BY AN LEVY

The House bill would impose sharp spending re-

buds

lining domestic programs, foreign aid and even some military projects.

See BUDGET/1A

House GOP wins on $60 billion cut

BY DAVID M. HERZENHORN

Washington Post

Manama, Bahrain — The uprisings sweeping the Arab world showed little sign of abating. On-looker as protesters from Bahrain to Libya to Yemen used the streets to demand greater freedoms in defiance of government crackdowns.

The demonstrations have left hundreds killed — some of whom have held power for decades — and hundreds more wounded and arrested. A ban on political meetings and street demonstrations has been in place in Bahrain for months, and authorities have warned that any protests could face harsh punishment.

Protesters rush an injured man to a hospital in Manama, Bahrain. The kingdom’s monarchy is attempting to quell negotiations with the demonstrators and ordered the military to back down.

By JERONE ZACKHE,

Washington Post

The voice of South Texas since 1865
Father John Fiala

1954-60: Fiala was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Omaha; assigned to Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity parish in Omaha; he served there for six years.
1960-64: Fiala served as pastor of the Omaha chapter of Society of St. Pius X in Kansas City, denying any claims of sexual misconduct.
1964-71: Fiala was assigned to the Diocese of South Bend, Indiana; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1971.
1971-77: Fiala served as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church in San Francisco; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 1977.
1977-80: Fiala was assigned to the Archdiocese of New Orleans; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Denver in 1980.
1980-84: Fiala served as pastor of St. Joseph Church in Denver; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of San Antonio in 1984.
1984-89: Fiala was assigned to the Archdiocese of San Antonio; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Kansas City in 1989.
1989-94: Fiala served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Kansas City; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1994.
1994-99: Fiala served as pastor of St. Michael Church in Chicago; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Buffalo in 1999.
1999-2001: Fiala served as pastor of St. John Paul II Church in Buffalo; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2001.
2001-2005: Fiala served as pastor of St. Thomas Church in Omaha; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of San Diego in 2005.
2005-2007: Fiala served as pastor of St. Teresa Church in San Diego; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Dallas in 2007.
2007-2009: Fiala served as pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Dallas; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 2009.
2009-2011: Fiala served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Oklahoma City; he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Kansas City in 2011.

The documents raise serious questions about the role of the Express-News in supervising Fiala and map out the type of sexual misconduct alleged by priests across the country. The newspaper released two sets of documents in 2008, both of which contained information about Fiala’s conduct.

The documents reveal that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 1980, when he was transferred to a new parish. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 1999, when he was transferred to Kansas City, Missouri.

The documents also show that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2001, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2005, when he was transferred to Dallas.

The documents suggest that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2007, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2009, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents also show that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2011, when he was transferred to Kansas City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2013, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents reveal that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2013, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2015, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents suggest that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2015, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2017, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents also show that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2017, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2019, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents reveal that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2019, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2021, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents suggest that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2021, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2023, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents also show that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2023, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2025, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents reveal that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2025, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2027, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

The documents suggest that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2027, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2029, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.

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The documents suggest that Fiala’s behavior was known to Church leaders at least as early as 2039, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. The newspaper also discovered that Fiala’s behavior was reported to Church officials in 2041, when he was transferred to Oklahoma City.
These races are up for grabs

In District 3: The battle is personal

BY BEN ROMAN

More than a week after the city’s Ethics Review Board dismissed the most damaging allegations against her opponent, City Council hopeful Leticia Castro is putting his Stanford University education to work, and a neighborhood association leader has vowed to bring more city spending to the district.

Leticia Castro, who briefly sat on the council in 2007, is one of six candidates running for one of San Antonio’s four at-large seats. Each says her cause is the best, and not all are apologetic about using the city’s reputation to their benefit.

In a three-way race, a single candidate would have to earn more than 50 percent of the vote to win outright. Without a clear majority, the top two will face off in a runoff election starting next month.

BOB RICHTER

A longtime journalist who has written and edited for several newspapers across the country will join the San Antonio Express-News next month as a columnist.

O. Ricardo Pimentel, a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist and that paper’s former editorial page editor, joins the Express-News on May 9.

Pimentel, 57, also has been a reporter and editor at newspapers in the Southeast, including his hometown of San Bernadino, Calif. He’s served as a correspondent in Washington, D.C., and was a nationally syndicated columnist for the USA Today Network.

He also has written two works of fiction, “House with Two Doors” and “Voices from the River.”

Pimentel is a widely-traveled and accomplished journalist with a passion for public policy communications and public relations—more than a job, he has a humanist’s approach to everything,” said Richard Ricard, editor of the Express-News.

“We fully expect him to help set the public conversation, in keeping with our tradition of columnist with strong views,” he said.

Scott Stroeg

Unintended irony

A small-government advocate moves to grow the bureaucracy with his illegal immi-

S T A T E  N E W S

A good reason to get dirty

The more than 1,600 runners at Saturday’s Muddy Mayhem 8K dealt with several obstacles, including a giant, muddy water hole near the finish. Proceeds went to the Wounded Warrior Project. Afterward, medals went to first, second- and third-place runners in each age group, and all participants were offered cold beer and free entertainment.

The Rev. Carrie Fournier participates in a prayer request at Mount Zion First Baptist Church on the East Side. An active community outreach leader, Fournier’s neighborhood members residents join the congregation.

Expanding their outreach

For many generations, the city’s historic black churches have been a bastion for them to sustain themselves. But today, the churches are facing a new reality. The East Side is no longer majority black. Hispanics have moved in as many African Americans have left for the suburbs. Some believe the city’s new black are strong yet, repackaging themselves as multicultural congregations.

For some, it’s a matter of long-term survival. They vow not to lose their traditional worship styles, and they are still catering to African American Americans to collect. But they are also welcoming the new majority in their neighborhoods.

We really feel the church and community must create a new outreach to the neighborhood, and to the members that live in their neighborhoods, and it is a new and different kind of outreach,” said Scott Stroeg, 34, an active committee member at Mount Zion First Baptist Church who leads its b R O B  R I C H T E R

You make us better

Readers’ probing and grousing bring

Scott Stroeg

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Killing of animals at state park sparks outcry

BURROS IN THE CROSS HAIRS

As the white bones scattered in the can-
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humans can be fatal for wild burros at the 
Big Bend Ranch State Park, where in the 
year’s time, it delivers more 
than 4 million gallons of good water to 
the utility’s customers.

Wild burros stop at a ridge near a remote area called Fresno Canyon in Big Bend Ranch State Park near Presidio. In the past year, more than 50 have been shot.

BY ROBERT RAY
rray@express-news.net

FRONTE CANYON — Appearing
like a phantom in the shadowy
 creek bed, the big gray burro
 stared at the approaching vehicle for
 a few seconds before scrambling up a
 rocky hillside, followed by five others.
 Pausing at the ridge top, the daiky
 beast locked back slightly, ears perked
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By ANNA M. IBA
aiba@express-news.net

The Cruz law firm, led by
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The legislation would
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See MORRIS/14A

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San Anto
n
The voice of South Texas since 1965

BexarMet bets on getting water rights

Record drought could choke utility

BY COLIN MCDONALD
cmcdonald@express-news.net

A town situated in one of the most expensive and ex-
lusive neighborhoods in San Anto-

This summer’s heat wave in the Lone Star State has raised concerns about the state’s water supply.

BY COLIN MCDONALD

San Antonio Express-News
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A burro carries on its back the Mother of the Kings of Uri.