## Fastest growing cities identified

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP) Michael Sidkey's 4-year-old ice cream shop used to sit in a sleepy strip mall along a two-lane road on the western edge of town.

These days, the road is six lanes, bustling with midday traffic. Businesses and housing developments have multiplied and spilled farther west. And people keep moving here despite the onslaught of two hurricanes last year.

"It used to be a nice and quiet community, but everything's changing now. I see new faces everyday," said Sidkey, owner of Sundae's Ice Cream Shoppe & Coffee Bar. "I guess everyone found out our secret."

The secret has made this bedroom community about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach the fastest-growing large city in the nation, according to census figures for 2003-2004 released on Thursday.

Port St. Lucie experienced the largest population growth for a oneyear period beginning in July 2003. It added 12,689 people to reach 118.396.

For the past four years, the census numbers show new residents flocking to midsize cities in Florida, Arizona, Nevada and California. Hurt by skyrocketing housing prices, people are leaving San Francisco, Boston and other large cities in droves.

Gilbert, Ariz., topped the fouryear list of fastest-growing cities with at least 100,000 people from April 2000 to July 2004. It grew by more than 46,000 people to just over 156,000 residents.

Next on the list ranked by percentage gain was Miramar, Fla., followed by North Las Vegas, Nev. and Port St. Lucie.

Rounding out the top 10 were

Chandler, Ariz.; Cape Coral, Fla.; money leftover to put in the bank," and Rancho Cucamonga and Irvine, Minsky said.

St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce

People have moved up to get out of

the congestion but unfortunately they've

both in California. places and a lot of it's propelled by the sharp spike in housing costs in the inner and more attractive cities," said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Beach market of \$390,900, where Washington. "People want to get as prices rank the 9th highest in the much housing as they can for their dollars."

made their own congestion."

Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and \$220,000. Cleveland continued to lose residents.

Although there is not one specific reason for such resident loss, these cities do not attract new residents through immigration, said Robert Land, demographer and director of the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech in Alexandria, Va.

Port St. Lucie, built on former swampland beginning in the 1960s, saw its population jump 33.4 per- of the congestion but unfortunately cent in the past four years. Mayor they've made their own conges-Bob Minsky says he expects the tion," said Esther Heiland, a volunboom to continue until the population tops 300,000.

He said each day 45 people move to the city and 42 percent of them are it lacks many of the cultural and coming from the booming cities to social amenities of a large, urban the south, where housing prices have become exorbitant for many. "People like the lifestyle here and creating a city center.

they're willing to commute.

Roseville, Calif., Henderson, Nev.; South, buy one here and have started it in 1961," Minsky said.

May 2005. That's a 35 percent jump over the previous year but significantly cheaper than the median price in the nearby West Palm nation.

Esther Heiland, volunteer,

In Gilbert, the average price for Older industrial cities such as a single-family home was about

> Greg Svelund, Gilbert City spokesman, said many new residents are coming from higher-

In Port St. Lucie, new residents said their new home already dou-

"People have moved up to get out teer at the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce.

area. There is no shopping mall or downtown, despite years of talk of

"This was nothing more than an 'They sell their house down 80-square-mile swamp when they



CARRIE BREDEMEIER/Colby Free Press

Colby Swim Club parents and members decided to spruce up their booth by painting the plywood walls and doing some other improvements.

## Swim Club booth gets facelift

The Colby Swim Club made improvements recently at its booth on the Thomas County fairgrounds, said Carrie Bredemeier with the club.

One of the big changes was painting the plywood boards with help from both parents and swim club members.

For many years, the club has of- starts Tuesday, Aug. 2 and continfered fairgoers a place to sit and enjoy food or drink, she said.

"We would like to invite everyone to stop by the commercial building on the grounds during the fair and see our new improvements," Bredemeier said. This year's Thomas County Fair the club.

ues through Saturday, Aug. 6.

For questions about becoming a swim club member or other general information, call Tracy and Robyn Rogers, president, or Stan and Emily Strange, vicepresident, or any other member of

### Food code violations announced

Health and Environment has issued administrative orders assessing civil penalties, notices of intent to suspend/revoke facility licenses, and emergency suspension orders for several food service establishments for violations of the Kansas Food Code or for operating without a license. The following locations were fined, but the actual amount was unavailable.

Those included: CiCi's Pizza. 6505 E. 37th N., Wichita; Nibs House of Coffee, 2525 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka; Timber Creek Restaurant, 14 E. Amity, Louisburg; Breck's Green Acres, 4961 E Hwy 268. Vassar: Phoenix Chinese Restaurant, 108 Broadway, Louisburg; Whistle Stop Café, 901 S. 6th St.,

The Kansas Department of Ave., Kansas City received a "no- proper way to make a correction," tice of intent to revoke," officials said Sharon Watson, public inforsaid.

> The department seeks to work constructively with licensed establishments to ensure compliance tion for each day the violation is with the Kansas Food Code, which documented. protects the public from the risk of foodborne illness, officials with the 20 calendar days from the date the state agency said.

"Whenever a food safety inspector identifies a violation, the inspec- to, pay the fine. tor immediately notifies the person in charge and advises them on the 5795.

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mation.

The fine for an individual violation can range up to \$500 per viola-

By statute, an establishment has order was mailed, plus three days for mailing to file for an appeal or

For questions, call (785) 296-

# NOW AVAILABLE IN HOXIE



The median price of a home in the "People like to live in smaller Port St. Lucie area was \$253,200 in

priced California communities.

are already happy with their investment here. Ira and Sabina Ratner, who moved last year from Atlantis, bled in value.

Port St. Lucie has grown so fast

Osawatomie; Felitzas, 402 N. 5th St., Kansas City; Ernesto Marinelarena, 5940 State Ave., Lot 25, Kansas City; Abuelos Mexican Food Embassy, 1413 N. Waterfront Parkway, Wichita; Prepared For You Catering, P.O. Box 831, Iola; Travel Lodge, 1949 N. 9th, Salina; Domino's Pizza, 2940 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka; Good Fortune Restaurant, 1103 E. Santa Fe, Olathe; IHOP #5451, 1807 E. 17th Ave., Hutchinson; True Grit Corner Bank Café, 129 South Main, Grenola; Sonic, 621 E. 4th, Hutchinson: and Mike's Steakhouse. 2131 S. Broadway, Wichita.

Other locations named during the latter part of May and early June were: Hometown Café, 101 E. Front St., Offerle; Dari Dine, 101 W. Kump, Bonner Springs; Casa de Hernandez, 1817 Park Drive, Kansas City; Thai Place, 9359 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park; China 1, 147 N. Parker St., Olathe; China Super Buffet, 539 E. Pancake, Liberal; Mickey's Club, 2115 N. "A", Wellington; El Mexico Café, 2544 S. Seneca, Wichita; Sweet Temptations, 216 E. 5th Ave., Arkansas City; Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar, 3236 N. Rock Rd., Wichita; Anderson County Sales Company, Jct Hwy 59, North & 31, Garnett; Pleasures, 4849 S. West, Wichita; Backyard Burgers #1090, 6709 W. 95th St., Overland Park; China Buffet, 2804 W. Hwy 50, Emporia; and Daylight Donuts, 1708 S. National, Fort Scott

The state agency also lifted orders of supension of license on Seoul Restaurant, 810 Grant Avenue, Junction City and Jade Garden, 6 Market Street, Osage City.

**Emergency Order of Temporary** Suspension on the Thai House, 100 Town Center, Suite 315, Manhattan was also lifed.

In addition, the state also sent "notice of intent to suspend" to three locations: India Palace, 129 E. 10th St., Lawrence; Charritos Tienda y Cosina, 889 S. Parker St., Olathe; Guacamole Grille, 2049 E. Santa Fe, Olathe; and Gus' Family Restaurant, 606 Oregon, Hiawatha Victory Junction, 13832 Parallel



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