

# Job prospects up in Rio Grande Valley

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BROWNSVILLE — A new study shows the Rio Grande Valley's fourth-quarter employment prospects rank among the best in the nation.

Across the valley, 41 percent of companies surveyed for the Manpower Inc. study said they would hire personnel, while only about 7 percent said they expected to cut back.

Another 42 percent plan to stay at current levels, with the remaining 10 percent undecided, according to the study by the Milwaukee-based temporary employment

## 41 percent of companies plan to hire personnel in coming year, study says

company.

The region is generally plagued by double-digit unemployment. The unemployment rate in July was 12 percent in Cameron County, down from 13.7 percent in June.

In Brownsville, residents are most likely to find jobs in construction, durable goods manufacturing, wholesale-retail trade, finance-insurance-real estate, services and public administration, according to Manpower.

For the first half of this year, the Brownsville Manpower office showed a record high in helping people find part-time employment, said company spokeswoman Kelly Stanton.

"We have been extremely busy," she said. "I see that more companies are starting to hire back workers, particularly in the automobile-related industry. There is also a lot more activity at the Port of Brownsville today."

Stanton said Brownsville em-

ployers are more optimistic about hiring than last year.

The survey shows 43 percent of Brownsville employers surveyed said they will boost staff sizes, with another 10 percent saying they expect to trim back.

The study showed that 33 percent of those employers had earlier expressed their willingness to hire new workers for this year's third quarter, while 17 percent expected work force reductions.

Manpower officials said that only 13 percent of employers, for the same period a year ago, reported intentions to hire staff.



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# Lawyer to drop rape case against commissioner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A prosecutor planned to wait until Friday before dropping a sexual assault case against Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price to make sure the alleged victim "does not want to change her mind."

Assistant District Attorney Mike Gillett said Wednesday that the woman who said Price raped her two years ago last week asked for the case to be dismissed. The trial had been set for Sept. 8.

"We are concerned about the victim and intend to do what she requests," Gillett said.

He said the request would not be filed until Friday "to make sure she does not want to change her mind, as we are ready to try the case if she chooses to go forward."

Price, 42, did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press to his office Thursday. His assistant, Cheryl Smith, said the commissioner was tending to county business and unavailable for comment.

Neither Price's attorney, Billy Ravkind, nor Gillett returned repeated telephone calls Thursday.

On Aug. 23, 1991, Price was indicted on a rape charge stemming from an incident in April 1990 involving a county employee. The

charge followed a story alluding to the matter in a February 1991 issue of D magazine.

Ravkind told The Dallas Morning News that prosecutors also plan to dismiss a felony criminal mischief charge involving an altercation with a KXAS-TV cameraman.

Price still faces a misdemeanor criminal trespass charge and two misdemeanor assault charges.

He is accused of trespassing at WFAA-TV studios during a protest last year. He is also accused of assaulting a jogger and a movie producer.

All three cases are scheduled to be heard Sept. 21.

# Lamar faculty unconfident in leaders

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEAUMONT — The faculty senate of Lamar University-Beaumont has voted "no confidence" in the Lamar University System's chancellor and board of regents in the wake of the ouster of a former school official.

Senate President Kathleen Murray said Chancellor George McLaughlin and the regents have created a leadership vacuum at the campus, manifested most recently Monday with the removal of John Idoux as executive vice president for academic and stu-

dent affairs.

"The problem that I see is that we have been left without experienced academic leadership at a time that the university very badly needs it," Murray told the Beaumont Enterprise in Wednesday's editions.

Faculty Senate members, who are elected by their academic colleges, approved resolutions of no confidence in the regents Wednesday by a vote of 27-2 with one abstention, and no confidence in McLaughlin by a vote of 27-1 with two abstentions.

In a prepared statement, McLaughlin criticized the senate

action.

Ted E. Moor Jr., chairman of the board of regents, called the senate's decision "very disappointing."

The regents accepted a letter of resignation from Idoux after an executive session Monday.

But Idoux said he wrote the letter at the chancellor's request in March and rescinded it less than a month later.

He filed a lawsuit Tuesday against McLaughlin, Lamar University and eight of the nine members of the board of regents, excepting Mona Britton Plunk, who joined the board Aug. 27.

Idoux, who served as interim president of Lamar's Beaumont campus from August 1991 until March, contends the regents fired him because he refused to authorize the payment of \$10,000 to Al Barbre, former women's head basketball coach at the Beaumont campus.

Barbre resigned last year under fire after reported violations of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules and university and athletic department policies.

The faculty senate will put the confidence vote to the university's full-time faculty in secret balloting that will run until Tuesday.

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