

B-CS has lowest unemployment

By COURTNEY STELZEL
THE BATTALION

The Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has the lowest unemployment rate in the state for the month of October and always has, said Larry Jones, director of communications for the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Class of 1970.

The most recent state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates show an increase from 5.0 percent to 5.2 percent. TWC Chair, Diane Rath, said that the nationwide unemployment rates rose .5 percent, from 4.9 percent to 5.4 percent—a stark increase compared to that of Texas.

"This was the first time since April that the Texas unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate," Rath said.

The United States was experiencing a slowing economy prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, but since that point the unemployment rate has continued to rise, adding to the economic problems. Not surprisingly, cities across the nation are reeling from the affects of the attacks on the economy but not in Bryan-College Station.

"The Bryan-College Station MSA has been unaffected by setbacks experienced in other areas of the state," Jones said.

Jones said 78,520 people in the Bryan-College Station area are currently employed, with only 1,224 of those actively seeking a job.

On a state level, the TWC has increased in the number of persons filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) on their phone system, from 74,413 calls, ending the week of Sept. 7, to

97,760 calls, ending the week of Nov. 17.

To help with the increase in filers over the phone, the TWC has instituted several additions to their phone system in an attempt to create a more simplified system.

One of the changes is the addition of two extra filing days to relieve some of the phone congestion experienced during peak filing days, usually Mondays and Tuesdays, Jones said.

"About two years ago we went to the UI Tele-Centers System. Before that time, people went to Texas Employment Centers (TEC) offices to file for a job and to claim UI, which caused a lot of extra traffic," Jones said.

The Tele-Centers System aids in the reduction of the number of persons claiming unemployment in the TEC offices. Also, the phone system helps persons who are unable to drive to a TEC office file.

"For people in rural areas, or urbanites who do not have transportation, this is a convenient system because you can just use the phone," Jones said.

Foreign language representatives also are available for persons to file in another language.

Jones said that the unemployment rate can be a double-edged sword.

"Low unemployment rates make it difficult for employers to find and retain educated employees, yet it is easy to find a job. When there are high unemployment rates, it is difficult for people to find jobs, and yet easy for employers to find educated employees," Jones said.

New districts give Hispanics more representation

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal court ordered new Texas House district boundaries Wednesday, boosting Hispanic voting strength but mostly leaving in place a Republican-drawn map.

The court also upheld the GOP-leaning Texas Senate plan enacted by the Legislative Redistricting Board.

Republicans applauded the decisions.

Ninety-eight percent of the House map approved by the GOP-controlled redistricting board and the entire Senate map were preserved by the court, said Republican Attorney General John Cornyn, the LRB chairman.

"Our goal was to produce maps that comply with the law and preserve minority voting rights. Today's rulings show that the LRB was successful in achieving these goals," Cornyn said.

Despite his loss in court, Democratic House Speaker Pete Laney was resolute about his future.

"The court's map does not change my plans to seek reelection to the House and another term as speaker," Laney said.

By some estimates, the map approved by the redistricting board could give Republicans as many as 88 to 90 seats in the Texas House. Currently, Democrats hold a 78-72 edge.

In the Senate, the GOP, which held a 16-15 edge in this year's legislative session, could gain three or more seats under the new plan.

"We prevailed in the House," said Nina Perales, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "It means more representation for Latinos, more districts in which Latinos can elect candidates of their choice."

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1.15	H	VS ₁	5250 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	.49	F	SI ₁	1450 ⁰⁰
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1.12	H	SI ₁	4800 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	.31	K	VS ₁	395 ⁰⁰
1.11	L	I ₁	1850 ⁰⁰				
1.11	H	I ₁	2700 ⁰⁰ Zenhoyko Cert.				
1.09	F	VS ₂	5750 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
1.02	I	VS ₂	3875 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
1.01	J	SI ₂	2950 ⁰⁰ Zenhoyko Cert.	7.48	F	I ₁	\$19000 ⁰⁰ SOLD
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1.00	K	VS ₁	2950 ⁰⁰	.92	H	SI ₁	2965 ⁰⁰
1.00	H	SI ₁	4350 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
.98	H	SI ₂	3750 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
.92	G	SI ₂	4327 ⁰⁰ EGL (Ideal Cut)				
.88	J	I ₁	1700 ⁰⁰	1.66	H	SI ₃	5400 ⁰⁰
.80	G	VS ₂	3250 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	1.18	D	SI ₂	4250 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.78	G	VS ₂	2975 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	1.02	I	VVS ₂	3825 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.76	G	SI ₁	2700 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	.86	F	VVS ₂	3400 ⁰⁰
.75	K	I ₁	1150 ⁰⁰ Old European Cut	.72	E	VS ₂	3100 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.74	G	SI ₂	2450 ⁰⁰				
.72	K	SI ₂	1890 ⁰⁰				
.71	H	SI ₁	2450 ⁰⁰				
.71	H	VS ₁	2650 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.	1.52	I	VVS ₁	6490 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.66	I	VS ₁	850 ⁰⁰ Old Mine Cut	1.02	K	VS ₁	\$3975 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.64	F	SI ₁	1595 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert. SOLD	.68	I	SI ₁	1275 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.59	I	SI ₃	950 ⁰⁰	.62	E	VS ₁	1675 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.58	I	VS ₁	1075 ⁰⁰				
.55	I	I ₁	850 ⁰⁰ Old Mine Cut				
.54	F	VS ₁	1575 ⁰⁰				
.51	G	SI ₂	950 ⁰⁰				
.50	G	VS ₁	1575 ⁰⁰	1.13	H	I ₁	1975 ⁰⁰
.50	H	I ₁	650 ⁰⁰	1.06	F	I ₁	2400 ⁰⁰
.48	H	SI ₂	700 ⁰⁰	1.00	I	SI ₂	3200 ⁰⁰
.47	I	I ₁	470 ⁰⁰ SOLD	.54	H	SI ₂	950 ⁰⁰
.42	G	SI ₂	550 ⁰⁰	.32	H	SI ₁	550 ⁰⁰
.37	I	I ₁	375 ⁰⁰ Old Mine Cut				

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Become involved with planning Bonfire 2002...

Design Review

Nov. 29 - Jan. 18

View the 3 proposed Bonfire 2002 designs at various locations on campus, including Evans Library, Sbis Dining Hall, Commons Lobby, Duncan Dining Hall, West Campus Library, Blocker, MSC Flag Room, and the Student Recreation Center, as well as our website.

Community Forums

January 15

MSC 292: 10am-12pm & 2-4pm
Rudder Auditorium: 6-8pm

Representatives from the Bonfire 2002 Planning Task Forces, CBM Engineers and Turner Construction will be available to answer questions.

This will be your final opportunity to have your questions answered before giving feedback that will be used in the President's decision regarding Bonfire 2002.

Student Feedback Survey

Jan. 16 - Jan. 18

There will be a student feedback survey sent to all current students through the Neo e-mail system. You must activate your neo account in order to receive this survey.

The Student Government Association will also set up voting tables around campus.

PROPOSED BONFIRE 2002 Designs

Visit our website,
<http://studentaffairs.tamu.edu/bonfire02/designs>

View the designs
Submit comments
Get current information