

County's Unemployment Jumps To 12.1 Percent

Brunswick County's unemployment rate increased from 11.6 percent in October to 12.1 percent in November, according to recent N.C. Employment Security Commission figures.

Unemployment rates also increased in 66 other North Carolina counties in November, decreased in 30 counties and remained the same in three others, reported NCEC Chairman Glenn Jernigan.

"Seasonal layoffs of 2,600 tobacco processing workers contributed to the total decline of 2,900 workers in manufacturing," Jernigan said. "By contrast, nonmanufacturing was up by 5,500 workers in November with

trade and government showing the greatest gains."

In Brunswick County, 2,310 persons were without jobs in November, compared to the 2,230 persons who were seeking jobs in October.

Unemployment rates decreased in several surrounding counties in November. In New Hanover County, October's 8.4 percent rate fell to 8 percent in November while Bladen County's rate fell from 13.2 percent to 11.9 percent.

However, Columbus County experienced an increase from 12 percent in October to 13.1 percent in November. The statewide unemployment rate for November was 7 percent.

December Warmth Broke Several Area Records

Last month was the warmest December recorded in the region since the first records were kept in 1871, according to the National Weather Service in Wilmington.

An average monthly temperature of 57.5 degrees broke the 1956 record of 57.1 degrees. An average daily high temperature of 68.6 degrees was 10 degrees above the normal 59.1 degrees for the area while an average daily low of 46.4 degrees was 10 degrees above the normal 37.2 degrees.

A high temperature of 81 degrees

was recorded on the 30th, equalling the highest temperature ever recorded in December in 1967. A reading of 80 degrees on the 29th broke the record 77 degrees set in 1874.

"Christmas 1984 may be remembered as the year Santa arrived in a hot air balloon," the weather statement reported. "Christmas morning the low was only 54 degrees and climbed to a high of 76 degrees Christmas afternoon. This was in contrast with a morning low of nine degrees and a high of only 26 degrees on Christmas day in 1983."

December's lowest temperature was 24 degrees, recorded on the 7th.

Precipitation for the month totaled only 1.32 inches, or 2.11 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation was recorded on five days with a trace of sleet recorded on the 6th.

During the month, 23 days were recorded as partly cloudy and eight days as clear.

The yearly average temperature for 1984 was 63.5 degrees, while the normal is 63.4 degrees. The highest reading during the year was 98 degrees recorded on June 19. The

lowest temperature, 15 degrees, was recorded on Jan. 22.

Precipitation totaled 59.17 inches during the year, or 5.82 inches above normal. September was the wettest month with 18.94 inches of rain recorded while the driest month was October with only .49 inches of rain recorded.

The highest one-minute wind speed recorded was 46 mph on Sept. 13, during Hurricane Diana. The highest wind gust was 74 mph, also during the hurricane.

Vegetables Are Farming Topic

A vegetable production meeting for farmers in southeastern North Carolina is set Jan. 19 in Faison, said Billy Barrow, Brunswick County Assistant Agricultural Extension Agent.

Barrow said the meeting will be an excellent opportunity for persons interested in alternate crops, new crops or vegetables in general to hear about the latest production and post-harvest handling techniques. Topics will include multi-cropping a limited area of land, cool season crop options and the fundamentals of locating a broker.

The meeting will be from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Faison Fire Station. Interested participants can also join a tour of the Cates Pickle facility at 8:45 a.m. The tour assemblies at the fire station.

Lunch is available at \$3.50 per person.

Barrow suggested car pooling as parking is limited. For more information call the extension office at 253-4425.

Tobacco Meet Set For Jan. 16

Three extension specialists from N.C. State University will address the annual tobacco production meeting sponsored by the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. in Shallotte.

Speaking will be Gerald Peedin, N.T. Powell and William Toussaint, specialists in crop science, plant diseases and economics respectively.

Topics to be discussed include fertilizer application and rates, canoeing effect of tobacco, black shank and Granville wilt controls, the outlook for tobacco and its support program and more.

A lunch will be catered at 12 noon, with the meeting to begin at 1 p.m. Growers who plan to attend the luncheon must make reservations with the extension office by calling 253-4425 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

City Tags On Sale

City auto tags for 1985 are for sale at Shallotte Town Hall at \$5 each.

All residents of the town are by law required to display the tag on their vehicles.

This year, for the first time, Mayor Beamon Hewett and the five aldermen are identified as such on their auto tags. As in the past, there's also a special tag for fire chief Curman Arnold.

FOR THE BEST DRESSED FISH IN TOWN...



Town Creek Seniors Meet

Winnabow accountant L.V. Walton was guest speaker at the Town Creek Township Senior Citizens' meeting Jan. 3 at the Town Creek Park building.

Walton discussed how to file income tax forms with the 33 members in attendance.

An exercise class will meet at the building on Jan. 10, 24, and 31 while a craft meeting will be held on Jan. 17. All classes begin at 2 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

Mrs. Bobbie Danford resigned as secretary last week and was replaced by Mrs. Lena Beachum. Also, Mrs. Lillith Dawkins donated an American flag and Mrs. Lucille Batten donated a coffee pot on behalf of the group to the park building.

The group will hold a kitchen shower for the building in February. Only large appliances are in the building now, so donations are needed. It is hoped that area businesses and other groups using the building will also make donations.

Herbert Young presided over the meeting with Lee Wescott giving the devotion under the topic, "Go By the Book." A moment of silent prayer was also held to remember Gilbert Dunn, a member who died in December.

Middle School Accredited

South Brunswick Middle School was recently reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools during the association's 89th annual meeting held in Atlanta.

Schools receiving accreditation must meet certain minimum standards requiring adequate facilities, facilities and their effective use.

"Communities with accredited schools can be confident that their in-

stitutions compare favorably with others in the region," an association news release stated.

Faculty and staff members also benefit by knowing that "conditions for teaching in accredited schools meet certain minimum standards and that efforts are continuously made to improve these conditions."

The SACS is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

Thin Poor Trees For Fuel

Thinning a woodlot provides fuelwood while allowing remaining trees to grow taller and straighter, advises the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

The crooked, forked, suppressed, diseased and otherwise poorer formed trees can best be used as fuel, a release indicated. Some of the better fuelwood trees include black locust, hickory, dogwood, black birch, ash, beech, apple, oak, maple and pine.

"A conscientious forest owner will

remove the poorer quality trees of these species, regardless of their size, and burn them as fuel," the release stated.

Before burning, the division recommends air drying the wood for six to eight months for best heat results.

North Carolina has 250,000 small woodland owners. Locally, help in determining what trees to thin is available from Forest Ranger Miller Calson, 253-5297.

November Deeds Reported

In November, 877 deeds and deeds of trust were recorded in Brunswick County creating \$6,599 in revenues, reported Robert J. Robinson, registrar of deeds.

Irregular instruments, which include filing of corporations, contracts, marriages, births, deaths, financial statements and other services, generated \$4,017.10.

Thirty-two plats were recorded creating \$442.50 in revenues while

\$11,743 was collected in real estate excise taxes. Total revenues for the month were \$22,801.60.

Monthly expenses of \$13,585.59 were divided as follows: contracted services, \$3,756.76; equipment rental, \$8,384.62; departmental supplies, \$796.42; maintenance and repairs, \$318.45; telephone, \$187.77; postage, \$123.93; and travel and training, \$15.64.

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