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Southport, Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



Out of work

15 percent? How well are ESC head-counters doing their jobs?

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County's unemployment rate swelled to 15.1 percent in November -- a major jump from October's rate of 12.6 percent, and the third highest unemployment rate among North Carolina's 100 counties.

Of the 20,100 people currently in the county's labor force, 17,010 were employed in November and 3,030 were unemployed, according to statistics released by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

The region had an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, which was higher than both the state figure of 5.8 percent and the national rate of 7.0 percent. Statewide, the unemploy-

'... I still think the figures for Brunswick County are skewed. We have maintained the same high level of building activity, and that is inconsistent with a 15-percent unemployment rate.'

David Clegg
County manager/attorney

ment rate rose in 95 counties.

However, county manager/attorney David Clegg questioned the state's statistics, and said the numbers do not accurately

reflect what is going on in Brunswick County.

"There are lots of variables in a hospitality or tourist economy like

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Photo by Jim Harper

Attorney General Michael F. Easley is given the oath of office by judge William C. Gore, Jr., in the Southport City Hall on Friday. Easley's wife Mary and son Michael participated in the ceremony.

Let the taxing begin; county approves levy

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

The total value of taxable property in Brunswick County is \$4.3 billion, creating a total tax levy for 1992 of \$29.6 million, county tax supervisor

Boyd Williamson told the board of commissioners Monday night.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to accept the figures, and directed tax collector Nancy Moore to begin collecting the money.

Nearly half of the total valuation

of the county is located in the Doshier Hospital District, or Smithville Township, which has a total tax value of \$1.8 billion. The hospital will benefit from a tax levy of \$725,488.

Property in the district is taxed at a rate of four cents per \$100 of property value. Proceeds from the tax are then used to pay for the hospital's 20-year bond and for hospital costs of operation.

Valuation of the district is about \$100 million more this year than last, which is primarily due to business and personal property audits and the increased value of Carolina Power & Light Co., Williamson said. The county showed an overall valuation increase of \$166 million.

Approximately \$68 million was added to the district's tax value as a result of business discoveries, including audits of Cogentrix and the Archer Daniels Midland Corporation, which recently shoveled out five year's worth of unpaid taxes.

"The value of the district may not be as high next year," Williamson said. "Without the business audits there would have been about a \$35-

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Southport cafeteria building among bids accepted Tuesday

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

In a special session Tuesday night the Brunswick County Board of Education approved bids for two construction projects and made a budget adjustment to reflect additional funding approved by county commissioners.

The board agreed to hire GRAKA Building Inc. of Whiteville as general contractor on the cafeteria addition and renovation to Southport Elementary School. That company was the low bidder at \$624,660.

The electrical contract was awarded to Anchorage Electric Co. of Carolina Beach with a low bid of \$87,695. T. A. Woods Co. of Wilmington got the plumbing contract

with a low bid of \$112,905 while the mechanical contract went to Blanton and Co. of Wilmington, which offered the low bid of \$148,000.

The total cost of the work has been budgeted at \$1,082,064, including \$974,064 for construction.

Assistant superintendent Bill Turner said Tuesday the cost of the project is higher than had been originally estimated because it was delayed for more than a year after the plans received board approval. Also, an additional \$161,000 was added to purchase new cafeteria equipment to replace obsolete items currently in use.

The project calls for the addition of a 3,400-square-foot dining area to accommodate 284 students at one time, and a 2,100-square-foot kitchen. It will be located at the front of the school next to the fourth grade pod, facing Ninth Street.

Work on the cafeteria will begin immediately so it can be completed

by the opening of the 1993-94 school year in August, Turner said. Once the addition is completed, work can begin on renovating the existing cafeteria for handicapped student classrooms, several resource rooms, teachers' work area and a language art classroom, Turner said.

In addition to the work at Southport Elementary, the board accepted Howard Roofing Systems of Cary as the low bidder for roof replacement on a ten-classroom building at Union Primary School. The existing

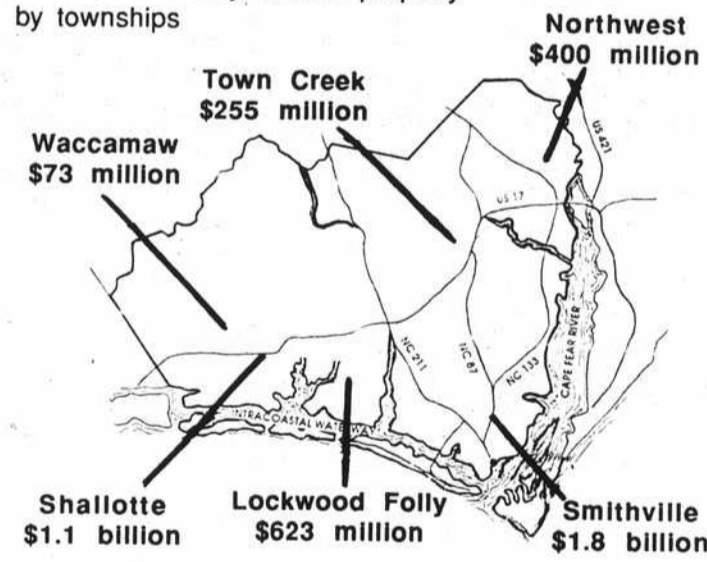
See School bids, page 6

Sales tax report

Collection of the local-option sales and use tax in Brunswick County totaled \$437,714 during the month of November, the monthly report from the N. C. Department of Revenue indicates.

Valuable lands

Brunswick County taxable property by townships



Lincoln school gets breath of fresh air

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

While students and teachers were at home enjoying the Christmas holidays, school maintenance workers and outside contractors were busy at Lincoln Primary School taking steps to improve air quality.

Assistant principal Faye Nelson said carpeting in the hallway leading to the second grade classroom wing and in the ten second grade classrooms was removed and replaced with tile. Carpeting in other areas of the school got a professional cleaning.

Quality Air Tech of Raleigh fogged the ventilation system throughout the school with a chemical to kill mold and bacteria in the ductwork, and ionizers were installed to purify the air, assistant superintendent Bill Turner said Tuesday.

"We've done everything the state recommended," he said, except for replacing a heating/air conditioning unit in the kindergarten wing. That is expected to be done soon after the school board approves the \$24,000 expenditure for the new 30-ton unit.

When the students and staff returned to school Monday morning, "everything looked so clean and shiny and pretty," Nelson said.

Talking with teachers on Monday, Turner said, "They were very positive about the freshness of the building."

But Beth Crawford, the second grade teacher who brought the ventilation problem to the school board's attention, was cautious about

saying all was well, like one television station reported Monday.

Looking at tiles that were wet from rain leaking through the ceiling of her classroom, Crawford said, "I don't think we should jump the gun and say we're healthy." She said the air quality still needs to be monitored to see if the corrective measures taken are enough to rectify the problem.

"By Friday, we'll know," Nelson said. Crawford had said earlier that the ventilation problems usually worsened after students had been in the classrooms all week.

The work to improve air quality at Lincoln was done upon recommendation by the state that mold-contaminated air and mite-infested carpeting was causing allergic reactions among the students and staff at Lincoln Primary. The problem appeared to be worst in the second grade wing, but was not limited to that area.

A door was installed in the special education building to increase air flow in that building, which the state consultant pointed out was getting no outdoor ventilation. Turner also said a fan may be added for additional air circulation.

The total cost of the work will exceed \$35,000, Turner said. The state consultant is expected to return to Lincoln Primary later this month to check the air quality.

The assistant superintendent commented that because of its efforts to rectify air quality problems at Lincoln, the school system will host a regional workshop in March on the sick-building syndrome.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies Thursday. On Friday, skies will be cloudy with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s. Saturday and Sunday, mostly cloudy skies return with temperatures in the 60s during the day and 50s at night.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 7	LOW
6:42 a.m.		12:22 a.m.
7:02 p.m.		1:07 p.m.
	FRIDAY, JANUARY 8	
7:32 a.m.		1:11 a.m.
7:54 p.m.		1:53 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 9	
8:21 a.m.		2:02 a.m.
8:45 p.m.		2:39 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 10	
9:10 a.m.		2:51 a.m.
9:37 p.m.		3:28 p.m.
	MONDAY, JANUARY 11	
9:59 a.m.		3:43 a.m.
10:31 p.m.		4:15 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JANUARY 12	
10:50 a.m.		4:35 a.m.
11:27 p.m.		5:05 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13	
11:43 a.m.		5:31 a.m.
----- p.m.		5:56 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.