

Jobless rate registers drop

In November

Kentucky's unemployment rate dipped slightly in November, the Department for Human Resources reported today.

The jobless rate stood at 5.6 percent, a decrease of .61 percent from the October rate, said Robert MacDonald, chief labor market analyst for the department's Bureau for Manpower Services.

MacDonald said the slight decrease results from hiring for the Christmas season.

The state's total work force increased by 5,000 persons in November to a total of 1,835,000.

The unemployment rate shows the percentage of persons who are actively seeking work but can't find jobs. The total number unemployed in November was 103,000, which is 1,200 less than in October, MacDonald said.

MacDonald said that while inflation expected to continue, the number of persons seeking employment will continue on an upward trend.

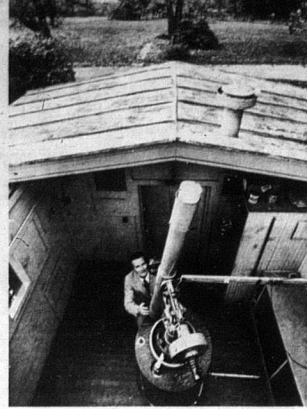
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Watching the Earth's Wobble



Not much bigger than a backyard playhouse, this small white frame observatory and the telescope it houses are actually part of the International Polar Motion Service, a joint program of the United States, Italy, Japan, and Russia that began at the turn of the century.

Located in Gathersburg, Md., outside Washington, D.C., the observatory and the telescope have been used for 80 years to keep watch on the position of certain stars, enabling scientists to determine the extent to which the earth wobbles on its north-south axis.



According to the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. is still owed some \$30 billion in World War I debts, some from countries no longer in existence.



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Brown government appointees named

During the first 10 days of his administration, Gov. J. B. Brown filled seven of nine cabinet posts.

Jackie Segel, secretary of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Department, is a Louisville resident, has been involved in state environmental and natural resources issues for 15 years.

William B. Sturgill, secretary of Energy, is a former state legislator and has been involved in energy issues for 15 years.

George Atkins, department secretary for the full-time position, is a former state legislator and has been involved in energy issues for 15 years.

Frank Metts, secretary of transportation, is a former state legislator and has been involved in transportation issues for 15 years.

Larry Townsend, secretary of development, is a former state legislator and has been involved in development issues for 15 years.

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Road fund needs \$

Road fund collections presently are running below budget estimates, and the trend seems to be further reductions as the price of gasoline soars and conservation measures are being pushed.

The only way to strike a balance with a chance to increase revenues is to increase the tax on gasoline. A ten percent levy would be less tax payable than it was back when we were paying 30 cents per gallon for gasoline, but paying seven cents of this is taxes. This figures out a percentage of 17 and nine tenths.

When Gov. Brown increased the tax to nine cents per gallon, the percentage was greater than this.

But if Gov. Brown would put the tax at 10 percent or greater, the tax would produce more revenue at a lower percentage. Of course, the amount of percentage will be left up to the governor and the legislature.

Most forecasters say that gasoline will go to \$2.00 per gallon within the next year or so. If it reaches this figure—the 10 percent would produce a tax of 20 cents per gallon.

As gasoline prices increase, the economic lure for at least a short period is that less gasoline will be used, so the increased total revenue for the state

may be less than some presently estimate. The average motorist already is economizing and probably will increase this trend as manufacturers build new cars that are more fuel efficient.

There are several other important measures the legislature must face. Chief among these is revising Kentucky's workers' compensation laws. Claims have risen in the last few years from \$4 million a year to \$84 million last year.

The prime villain in the case is payment for permanent partial disability. One industrial spokesman and recently every claimant is going to get something under our present law.

Legislators are now working to limit the time of payments for partial disability if the claimant can return to work at the same or higher wage than he was making when injured. They will try to eliminate the lifetime payments where feasible.

There will be consumer bills and approval of strip mine and reclamation regulations or possibly amendments to present law.

Interest rates also will come in for some serious discussion. It is going to be an important session.

Why does the earth wobble? He's looking for an answer

National Geographic News Service WASHINGTON — At night, when Mac Carrin rolls back the roof of a small wooden observatory, points his 6-foot-long telescope straight up, and starts gazing at stars, he's hoping they'll tell why the earth wobbles.

For 80 years someone has manned this tiny white observatory—appropriately marked with a star over its door—using the same telescope to seek the same answer to the same mystery.

Not much bigger than a child's backyard playhouse, the observatory is part of the International Polar Motion Service, a joint program of the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and Italy that began at the turn of the century.

Latitude lines All of the original observatories—two in the United States, and one in each of the other countries—are lined up along the path of 39 degrees, 8 minutes, and 12 seconds north latitude.

Advertisement for Fryman's Used Cars featuring a car and the text '1980 Lighting up A NEW YEAR with joy and hope for all Fryman's Used Cars'.

Advertisement for Deposit Bank featuring a baby and the text 'Hope your New Year is fit for a king and rich with happiness and success. Deposit Bank'.

Jackets nip Wildcats on last-second basket

By Kay Conley Every second counted. The clock read 15, 14, 13 and Nicholas County had possession of the rebound. Just as the clock read two, Mike Hutton hit a jumper to break the tied game and give the Nicholas County Bluejackets a 35-30 win over the Pendleton County Wildcats on Saturday, Dec. 21, at Pendleton.

"It was a thrill to beat Pendleton at home," stated Coach Mike Kenney after the game, "especially to win from behind and win at the end."

The Bluejackets did come from behind as they never once led at any of the first three quarters' end. What was the basic problem?

"When you're not hitting the basket you have to make up for it in other ways. Our team did that Saturday night. They never quit trying even when the shots weren't going in the first half," said Coach Kenney.

Pendleton County's baskets were more numerous than Nicholas County's as the Wildcats took an early 14-11 lead in the first quarter.

"All eight people who played contributed," said Coach Kenney. Jerry Edwards "contributed" by shooting eight rebounds in the game and by playing superb inside defense. This action alone Nicholas is coming in with a 27-26, at the half.

The Bluejacket guards led Pendleton's high-scoring attack. Mark and Greg, to be just that name. David McCreary and Mark Vice made some important points as the third quarter ended 33-26 with the Wildcats leading.

"One change we made was to big difference, especially the trap at the end," stated Coach Kenney.

Mike Sewell, Pat Leicher and Don Markland came off the bench to help add to the Jackets' victory. Twelve rebounds each by Hutton and Steve Davis started putting the wheels in motion for the Jackets' comeback. Six buckets in the second half by Hutton also helped set the total tally to the Wildcats as the game ended 35-30 with the Wildcats.

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