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Amory, Mississippi 50¢



CELEBRATION

A big group, including Mayor Thomas Griffith, representatives from the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, local businessmen, Scouts and kids turned out Saturday morning for the official ribbon cutting of Celebration Station, Amory's new community playground located on Concord Ave. Cutting the ribbon were Tricia Bates, playground coordinator, and Kelly Atkins with the Amory Junior Auxiliary. Also on Saturday the Monroe County Master Gardeners, with the help of the Scouts and volunteers, planted trees and shrubbery around the play-

Monroe County unemployment continues climb

By JOSEPH R. GURNER
Staff Writer

Monroe County's jobless rate climbed slightly in September, ranking the county among the highest in the state in terms of unemployment.

According to figures provided by the Mississippi State Employment Security Commission, Monroe County's unemployment rate climbed from 11.3 percent in August to 11.4 percent in September.

As of September 1 Monroe County's total civilian work force was 14,850. Of that number, 13,160

Monroe County Employment Snapshot	
Population	38,014*
Civilian Work Force	14,850
Unemployed	1,690
Employed	13,160

Per Capita Income	\$17,623
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$496
% Below Poverty	21.2

Avg. Yrs. Education	10.83*
% High School Grad.	55.6*
% College Grad.	8.4*

* According to 2000 Census figures.

were employed while 1,690 were unemployed. The number of people unemployed climbed by 10 since August. The number of those employed fell by 10.

Among the surrounding counties, Monroe had the second highest jobless rate for the month. Chickasaw County had the highest rate at 13.4 percent.

Just below Monroe County was Clay County at 9.7 percent. Lowndes County had 6.7 percent. Lee County was next with 5.1 percent and Itawamba County was the lowest with 4.6 percent.

Monroe County ranked 75th among Mississippi's 82 counties state-wide in terms of joblessness.

The jobless rate for Mississippi also climbed in September from 4.9 percent in August to 5.2 percent. Mississippi's jobless rate was still slightly above that the national rate of 4.7 percent.

Lafayette County had the lowest jobless rate in the state at 1.8 percent. Jefferson County had the highest