



Unemployment rates increase in 84 counties

Chowan posts 10.9 jobless rate

From staff reports

Raleigh — Unemployment rates rose in 84 of North Carolina's 100 counties, including Chowan, in June.

The rates fell in 11, and were unchanged in five.

When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 91 counties, increased in six, and remained the same in three.

In the latest figures, Chowan County posted a jobless rate of 10.9, up from May's rate of 10.2 percent — a difference of .7 percent.

The latest numbers mean that in June Chowan County — with a workforce of 6,142 people — had 667 people who were unemployed and looking for work.

In June 2011 the unemployment rate for June in Chowan County stood at 11.7 percent — a drop of .8 percent, state officials said.

"Over-the-year numbers are showing a positive trend compared to the June numbers," said N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Dale Carroll. "Since June of last year, rates are down in nearly all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Job announcements continue to

See **JOBLESS**, 2A

| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN 2012 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| County | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May | June |
| Pasquotank | 11.7 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 9.9 | 10.3 | 10.8 |
| Camden | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Currituck | 10.4 | 10.7 | 8.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Perquimans | 10.4 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 10.3 |
| Chowan | 11.8 | 11.4 | 10.5 | 10 | 10.2 | 10.9 |
| Gates | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.5 |

SOURCE: NC DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Visitors spent \$17M last year

Nixon: Welcomed news in tough times

From staff reports

A report released Aug. 7 by the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development shows those visiting Chowan County spent over \$17-million last year, up 4.4 percent from the previous year.

The report showed that the travel and tourism industry directly employs over 140 locally. The total payroll generated by tourism industry during 2011 was \$2.46 million, the report stated. State tax revenue generated in Chowan totaled

\$850,000 through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income.

Approximately \$1.08 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.

Keith Nixon, Chowan Tourism Development Authority board chairman, said the increase provides welcome news in a tough economy.

"The more sales tax that is generated by tourists, the lower property taxes can stay," Nixon said. "It also means more jobs."

"This increase in visitor spending shows the economic value of tourism to us here in Chowan County and the importance of our working together to further grow this significant industry," he added.

Chowan Tourism Development Authority Director Nancy Nicholls said that the increased activity in tourism would present a great opportunity for boosting those numbers even higher as the town prepares to celebrate its 300th anniversary, a year-long event slated to begin in November.

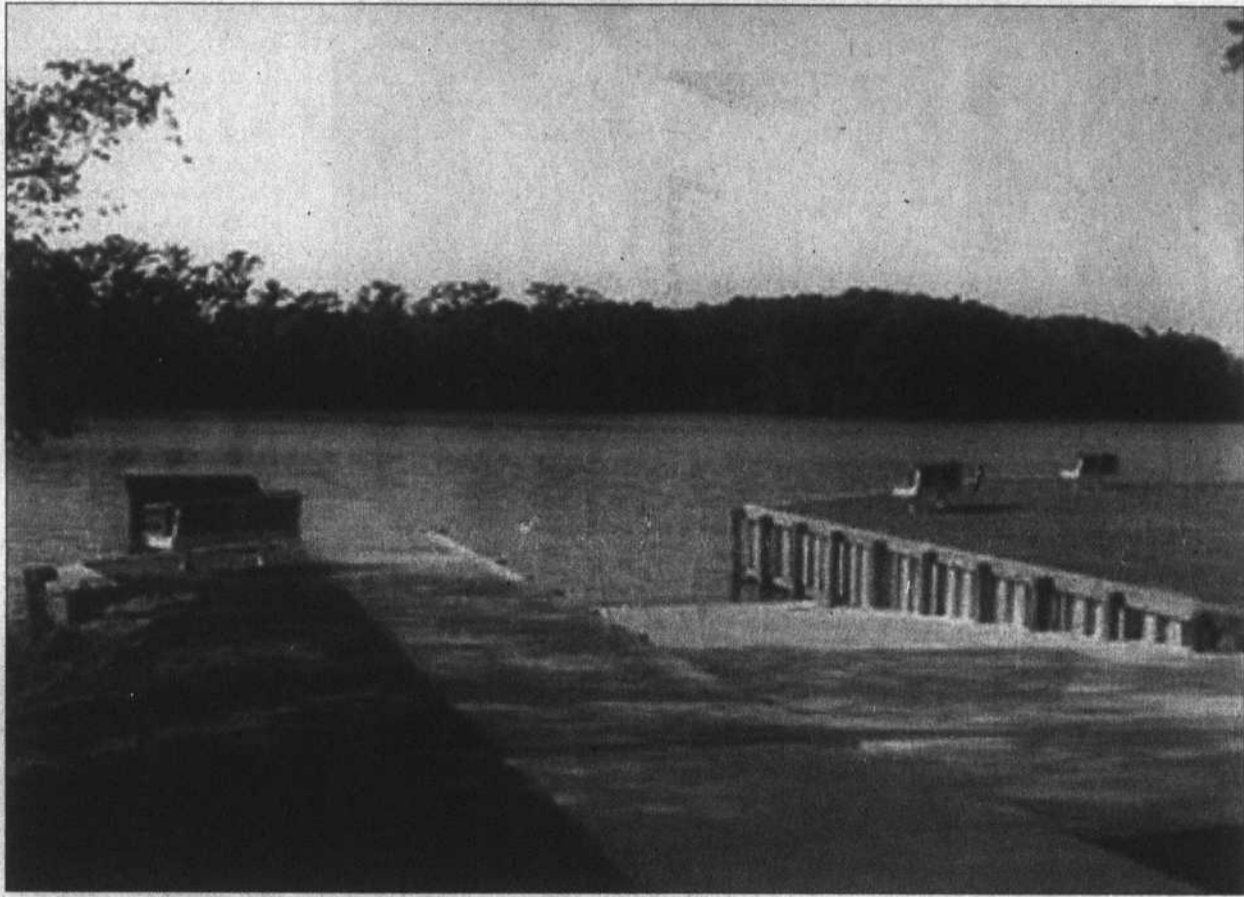
"With the recent publicity that the relocation of the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse has received from public television and Our State magazine, and other media outlets, and now with the anniversary approaching we're well

See **SPENDING**, 2A

Treading Water



River Sound provides a bulkhead along Yeopim River.



PHOTOS COURTESY BY DAVID MCCALL

Amenities such as this boat ramp located at the River Sound development off the Yeopim River in Chowan County had been costing property owners \$600 monthly in homeowners' dues.

Water, sewer underway

225 property owners have been unable to build since '07

Economic downturn hamstrung River Sound

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Five years after developers sold 225 lots of the gated River Sound but failed to provide infrastructure necessary for new home construction, efforts are currently under way to install water and sewer in the subdivision.

Chowan County has ordered that International Fidelity Insurance Company (IFIC) fulfill its bond obligation and finish what the Waterfront Group started in 2007. Over the course of a weekend that year Waterfront sold all of the lots in River Sound's phase I. Those who purchased property at optimum



River Sound is a gated community that pre-sold 225 lots in 2007.

price points and before the economic collapse in 2008, have been required to pay property taxes and monthly homeowners dues while

See **RIVER SOUND**, 4A

Steinburg: Sex offender didn't work for campaign

Candidate claims 'gutter politics'

By **REGGIE PONDER**
The Daily Advance

State House candidates Bob Steinburg and Bill Luton sharply disagree over the significance of the recent report in a Raleigh-based newspaper that a registered sex offender has been involved in Steinburg's campaign.

The News & Observer last week reported that Harvey L. West Jr. of Washington County had

See **STEINBURG**, 4A



FILE PHOTO

GOP state House candidate Bob Steinburg (right) and supporter Harvey L. West Jr. look over primary campaign returns at Steinburg's home in Edenton, Tuesday, May 8, the night Steinburg won the GOP nomination for state representative in District 1.

See **ENFORCEMENT**, 3A

