

Softball team wins  
district, state titles — 2B

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# Land use plan to be revised before vote

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

During a joint session Monday, Edenton Town Council and the Chowan County Commissioners agreed to table a proposed updated 2018 Coastal Area Management Act Land Use Plan until consultants can complete the final revisions.

The draft plan was prepared by the Durham based consulting firm CodeWright.

Town Council and commissioners asked the firm to

make all the essential changes outlined in the final draft before any final decision is made whether to adopt the plan.

Mayor Roland Vaughan said he would like to see a finished document before making any decision to move forward.

County Commissioner John Mitchener said it would be best "to do the thing well and not rush the calendar."

Officials at the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management in February

2016 began requiring a 30-year projected population be a part of all Land Use Plans. The community last adopted a Land Use Plan in 2008 — a year that many local policy-makers don't exactly hold dear.

Bureaucratic dictates aside, the plan is a forecast — a snapshot — filled with government statistics and much more as to what Chowan County may be like in the future. The document serves as a tool for investors, government-types, business

owners, perhaps families — all of whom are considering whether to invest longterm in Chowan County.

In March when Town Council and commissioners reviewed an earlier draft, they made suggestions and asked for revisions. One of the sticking points with that draft was that it presented population projections that showed a "dramatic population decline" locally between now and the year 2050.

Critics of the latest plan contend that while more

optimistic projections are included from the U.S. Census data, it still paints a negative picture of the county's growth during the next three decades.

The consultants say the plan was created using state and federal statistics to determine future trends such as population growth. CodeWright's Principal Chad Meadows said population is declining in eastern North Carolina, particularly rural areas, however, the decline should not be considered as

a "throw your hands up and pack your bags" moment.

No one will deny that the region's population has changed, but the plan seems only to focus on migration away from Chowan County and does not take into consideration net migration into the county.

Mitchener noted that many people from various corners of the nation like what Edenton and Chowan County have to offer, so they

See LAND, 6A

## Steinburg defends sponsorship

BY JON HAWLEY  
For the Chowan Herald

A majority of Currituck County commissioners say they weren't aware the county paid a firm owned by Rep. Bob Steinburg to sponsor a basketball tournament — and several also opposed the expense.



STEINBURG

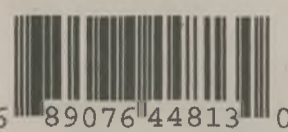
Steinburg, who owns the WolfeStein Group, is adamant that the arrangement is both legal and ethical. County Manager Dan Scanlon has said the same, and that Currituck vetted the contract as it would any other. He also had authority as manager to approve the contract without commissioners' approval, he explained.

Last year, Scanlon signed a \$50,000 agreement with the WolfeStein Group to buy naming rights and promotional services for an NCAA basketball tournament. That tournament is the "Visit-currituck.com Battle in the Blue Ridge" that's scheduled at the US Cellular Center in Asheville over Thanksgiving weekend.

Had commissioners been asked for approval, however, it's not clear a majority would have given it. Commissioners Paul Beaumont, Mike Hall, Kitty Etheridge and Bob White claimed in interviews this week they knew little or nothing about the sponsorship before it was approved in December 2017. Chairman Bobby Hanig and Vice Chairman Mike Payment said they were aware of and supported the deal. Commissioner Marion Gilbert did not return a request for comment this week.

"I was completely unaware of this," Beaumont

See STEINBURG, 2A

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PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Governor Roy Cooper shook hands and talked with employees as he toured Regulator Marine on Friday.

## Gov. Cooper 'cares about the little towns'

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Governor Roy Cooper toured Regulator Marine and had lunch at the Downtown Soda Shoppe during his visit to Edenton on Friday.

In contrast to many politicians, Cooper was punctual for the 12:30 p.m. visit to Regulator Marine, even a bit early when he arrived around 12:25ish at the plant that is growing by leaps and bounds in terms of sales and reputation. Earlier, Cooper had been touting the state's new Finish Line grants during a visit to the College of the Albemarle campus in Elizabeth City. Following the Governor's stopover in Chowan County, he traveled to Windsor for meetings.

After tours of duty in the Legislature, Cooper served four terms as the state's Attorney General before moving to the Governor's Mansion.

No matter what your politics, no one could deny that Cooper was courteous and kind to folks as was befitting the longtime Democratic politico who grew up in rural Nash County where he worked in tobacco fields during the summer as a teenager.

Among the notables who joined Cooper during his visit to Edenton were Mayor Roland Vaughan; Jennifer Harriss, director of Destination Downtown Edenton; Ron Wesson, a Bertie County commissioner and candidate for the state House

See COOPER, 4A



Governor Cooper shakes hands with Nancy Morgan and talks with Elizabeth Huff, a retired guidance counselor for John A. Holmes High School when he stopped for lunch at Downtown Soda Shoppe.

## Bulldogs score new principal

From Staff Reports

Edenton-Chowan Schools announced Tuesday that Alton Campbell has been named principal of Chowan Middle School.

Campbell says goodbye to the Eagles, where he has served the past two years as principal at Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City.

Their loss is the Bulldogs gain when Campbell starts Aug. 23 — a few short days from when school starts bright and early Monday morning Aug. 27. Campbell replaces John Lassiter who is now principal of Hertford Grammar School in Perquimans County.



CAMPBELL

See PRINCIPAL, 6A

## Family's treasure discovered

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

*Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series detailing letters discovered recently in the attic of a nearly 200-year-old home on East Church Street.*

A few weeks back, J. Dawson Tyler was busy working to restore the McNeider House when he discovered an old cigar box filled with letters in the attic.

Dawson, an ardent preservationist, leads Edenton's Down East Preservation Construction and Design LLC — a company that has restored many of the area's



PHOTO BY NICOLE BOWMAN

An old cigar box found in the attic of home built in 1819 reveals a bit about a local family's history.

historic homes.

The letters Tyler found were written between Nellie

Bond and John Small way

See TREASURE, 6A



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SALAMANDERS  
CHRISTMAS IN JULY  
KIDS RUN THE BASES

JULY 28 @ 7PM  
VS PENINSULA PILOTS  
LIVE PREGAME MUSIC  
KIDS RUN THE BASES