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COACH HOGGARD EARNS BOTH CAREER WIN — B1

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

So far, 179 people have cast their ballots during the early-voting period — A2

FALL FESTS

Truck or Treats, Halloween activities get underway around Chowan County — A6

100 YEARS

American Legion Post 40 needs help getting photos for its centennial celebration — A8

BEEKEEPING

COA-Edenton/Chowan campus hive produces 4 1/2 gallons in its first year — B2

State panel dismisses ethics complaint

Senator Steinburg accused of conflict of interest in 2018

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

A state panel has dismissed a complaint that state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan,

violated state ethics rules when his sports marketing company signed a \$50,000 contract with Currituck County last year to facilitate the county's sponsorship of a college basketball tournament.

The N.C. Ethics Com-

mission also ruled Tuesday (Oct. 15) that Steinburg had made all proper disclosures of his economic interests on his 2018 Statement of Economic Interest.

"I knew I wasn't guilty and wouldn't be found guilty," Steinburg said, reacting to the

commission's rulings.

He described the complaint against him as "purely ugly campaign politics from a bunch of self-serving malcontents," calling it "politics at its absolute worst."

Tina Lunt, an Elizabeth City resident, filed the

complaints against Steinburg with the Ethics Commission in August 2018. At the time, Steinburg, who was then a member of the state House, was running for a seat in the Senate, a race he would win



STEINBURG

See ETHICS, A6

FROM SOIL TO TABLE:

Following the call to farm



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Farming is a multi-million dollar business in Chowan County. According to the Chowan County Cooperative Extension, farming brought in nearly \$50 million dollars in 2017.

Those working in agriculture struggle, tend to be older

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

God made farmers like John Layton of Rocky Hock to till the fields, harvest the crops, attend meetings and make their voices heard.

Layton walks the walk, talks the talk, so the Chowan Herald reached to him to learn more about farming and a way of life that has been the backbone of northeastern North Carolina for generations.

"I have been farming along

side my father and grandfather since I was able to walk," said Layton, 31, co-owner of Layton Farms, located a few miles outside Edenton. "I grew up every spring of my childhood planting produce, peanuts and cotton. I spent every summer in the fields pulling weeds, pulling watermelons, and cantaloupes. These were days that I hated as a kid, but now I thank God every day that I grew up that way. It molded me into the

See FARMING, A5



John Layton who holds harvested peanuts in this photo runs a 1,800 acre farm with his father and another full-time employee. His family has farmed in Chowan County for several generations.

Help keep Chowan litter free

Chamber again providing supplies for volunteers to gather roadside trash

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

Northeastern North Carolina counties are teaming up through Nov. 3 to clean up the region's roadways in the Fall Litter Sweep.

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce is again working with the community and neighboring counties to assist with the event, which encourages volunteers to help keep the county clean.

This time around, the Chamber is working with Pasquotank, Perquimans

See LITTER, A2

Forensic Files producing new episodes

Hertford's Gary Lico helped develop longtime syndicated crime series

STAFF REPORT

CANNES, FRANCE — While world-renowned television executive Gary Lico was in Europe this past week, he made a quick phone call to his favorite local newspaper, the Chowan Herald, to share

See EPISODES, A2

Benjamin Ullom travels world with Ocean Infinity

Holmes graduate operates underwater survey machine

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Early one morning long before sunrise, I'm having a cup of coffee on the deck of my sailboat when my phone starts beeping — it is Benjamin Ullom and he's on a bigger boat off the western coast of Africa.

Time difference is about three hours give or take between the Cape Verde Islands and Edenton Marina.

John A. Holmes Class of 2016, Ullom is a graduate of Cape Fear Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in applied

science and marine technology.

This is Ullom's first trip to Africa. Most recently, Ullom traveled to Praia, the capital and largest city of Republic of Cabo Verde.

"Just what you would expect in a town in Africa," he said. "There's lots of sand in the air and a lot of poverty."

Ullom scored a big time job with Ocean Infinity as an AUV/USV (autonomous underwater vehicle/unmanned surface vehicle) operator. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, AUVs can be used for underwater survey missions, such as detecting and mapping submerged wrecks, rocks and ob-

structions that can be a hazard to navigation for commercial and recreational vessels. An AUV operates independently from the ship and has no connecting cables, whereas USV are connected to an operator on the ship.

"The job is wonderful," he said. "I get to travel to beautiful places and see some interesting stuff. It gets hard sometimes on being a 6-week-on/6-week-off rotation, but the experiences I do make up for it. Traveling around the world for work is truly a dream come true for me and working on the open ocean."

Ullom keeps in contact with his mother, Kim, and shares photos of his seafaring adventures. Being an ocean

away from Rocky Hock, does he miss home?

"It's not as hard as you think — missing home — especially when we're working everyday, but when you start to get closer to the end of your rotation it feels good to know you'll be home doing whatever you want for six straight weeks soon," Ullom said. "I've traveled as far north as the Arctic Circle and visited Norway and visited places such as Las Palmas in the Canary Islands — some beautiful places."

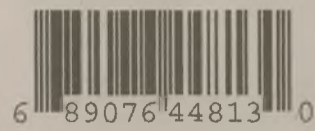
On that note, anyone who travels abroad — please make time to connect via social media or email (mlyton@ncweeklies.com) with the Chowan Herald. We want to hear from you!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Benjamin Ullom, a member of John A. Holmes Class of 2016, is a seafaring Ace who scored a good job with an international company and travels the world applying his marine and technical skills.

What's Happening in Chowan County



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Spear earns spot at state girls tennis meet — B1

OBITUARIES — A3

Merle N. Byrum
Alvin Franklin Earley
Dr. David Orlo Wright

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TRICK OR TREAT Downtown Edenton



Thursday, October 31
5:30pm ages 12 and under

Sponsored by your local Downtown Merchants/Destination Downtown Edenton, Inc.

