



Clerk of Court race heating up

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

It's been nearly 16 years since more than one candidate has pursued the office of the Clerk of Superior Court in Chowan County. Come May 4th voters will head to the polls to cast their ballot for either incumbent Mike J. McArthur or Orville E. Mason, Jr., the county's

only local primary race. For two men whose jobs sometimes crisscross, the candidates are running two distinctly different types of campaigns.



Mason



McArthur

McArthur, 60, sug-

gests that his experience makes him the better choice. "I don't have to convince people to vote for Mike McArthur, I've got to convince people to burn their gasoline and go vote," said

McArthur, referring to the unpredictability of primary turnout. To get the word out, McArthur has peppered the Chowan County landscape with election signs en route to a fifth term. None read "re-elect" as typically displayed for incumbents. In fact, there the same signs that he used in 1994. With no opposition since, they've been of no

use. Until now. Mason, 57, alleges that McArthur is always campaigning and uses his elected position to curry favor. "I don't think a judicial office should always be running for office, accepting contributions and holding fundraisers," Mason said. "Instead of spending money on a campaign, that money could be going to

a better good. What is a contribution?" Instead of taking political contributions for his maiden campaign, Mason shuns any funding. He asks that any contributions be directed to the Boys and Girls Club or the Food Bank. Mason has opted for a grassroots campaign that includes going to

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DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO BY TOBY TATE

An E2 Hawkeye lands on the flight deck of the USS Harry S. Truman, March 25. The U.S. Navy is seeking interest from regional airports in hosting a temporary airfield for pilot training with the E2 Hawkeye.

Permission to land?

Edenton interested

By **TOBY TATE**
Staff Writer

At least one regional airport is open to temporarily helping the U.S. Navy conduct training flights for several turboprop aircraft. "Given the economic climate, and how scarce dollars are, especially for the airport, we need to learn more about the Navy's interest in Northeastern Regional," said Anne Marie Knighton, Edenton town manager.

"We will evaluate potential impacts and economic benefits and then a policy decision will need to be made by the airport commission and the town council." Harry Davis, manager at Northeastern Regional Airport in Edenton, said he'd be interested in learning more about the Navy's proposal, announced Friday, to find regional airfields to support field carrier landing practice operations for its E2 Hawkeye and C2 Greyhound airplanes. The airfield or airfields chosen would only be a temporary fix, according to Navy spokesman Ted

Brown, and not a replacement for the proposed outlying landing field the Navy wants to build at one of five sites currently being studied. "It's a near-term interim solution," Brown said. "These aircraft are different from jets — quieter, and there are no requirements to obtain private property or build new fields." According to a press release from Brown's office, potential airfields must be at least 5,000 feet long, 100 feet wide, be located within 90 nautical miles aircraft

See **NAVY, 7A**

Person of the Month



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rosalie Miller, librarian at the Shepard-Pruden Library in downtown Edenton, sits at her desk behind a stack of books. Miller will be retiring June 1 after 16 years of service.

Shepard-Pruden librarian to retire

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

She's worked a few honorable careers, and at least one she could have succeeded. For the last 16 years, Rosalie Miller has worked as the dutiful librarian at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton. Judging from her skills as a photographer — the proof decorates her office walls — Miller could have been a professional. Add her love of traveling

and she could have been an international travel photographer. But, thankfully for the book borrowers here she stayed true to the library. Her commitment ends June 1 when Miller retires. Expect her global exploits to reignite. "I'd love to go on a photography safari in Africa," Miller said. "Wouldn't that be something?" Her good friend, Pat

See **MILLER, 7A**

NC loses 'Race to Top'; school chiefs disappointed

By **KRISTIN PITTS**
Staff Writer

Area school officials say they're disappointed North Carolina won't be receiving any of the millions of federal grant dollars being awarded as part of a new education reform effort. Although North Carolina was one of 16 finalists for the Race to the Top education grants, federal officials felt the state's applica-

tion wasn't as strong as those submitted by Delaware and Tennessee — the two states picked to receive RTTT funding from the \$4 billion program. Federal reviewers judged North Carolina's application weaker in the areas of data systems, progress toward raising achievement and closing achievement gaps, state officials' stance on "making education funding a priority" and state efforts creating "successful

conditions for high-performing charter schools and other innovative schools." Ron Melchiorre, Camden County Schools superintendent, said he was disappointed that North Carolina — which had sought \$469 million — had not been chosen for the RTTT funding. He pointed out the reviewers' marks on staff development, saying that the state will have to provide funding if it wants to put

reforms in place. Economic constraints have curbed state funds for professional and staff development. "School systems cannot implement major educational reform without the funds to provide principals and teachers the professional development they need in order to be successful," Melchiorre said. "Locally, school systems can only finance a small part (of the cost). For school sys-

tems to effect major school reform, more state money is going to have to be provided because locally we cannot do it on our own." According to a government Web site, the U.S. Department of Education will have about \$3.4 billion available for the second phase of the Race to the Top competition. Gov. Bev Perdue told The

See **SCHOOLS, 3A**

Jones faces Dem challenger; 2 GOPs to square off in primary

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**
Assistant News Editor

Two Republican newcomers and a Democrat who's trying to make a political comeback are seeking the District 4 seat of in-

Decision 2010

Incumbent state Sen. Edward Jones, D-Halifax. Jones, a retired first sergeant with the N.C. Highway Patrol, has held the District 4 seat since being appointed in January 2007 to complete the unexpired term of Sen. Robert Holloman, who died in office. Pri-



Halbert

he's seeking a second full term in the Senate because he wants to create jobs and improve economic condi-



Jones

change leaders. "We have to continue where we left off," he said, referring to last year's



Nail

are drawn, he has a proven record of working with other legislators in the other chamber of the General

session. "There are five House (members) that work in my district. We work well together," he said. The 4th Senate District is comprised of seven counties: Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton and Perquimans. To win a second term, Jones will have to get past a

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