

Interstate 40 construction continues

By **TIM HARRISON**
Staff Writer

The long-awaited Interstate 40 has finally fulfilled its promise to chop about 15 minutes off the 40-minute drive from Raleigh to Chapel Hill. The federally and state-funded project has been constructed in fits and starts by the Department of Transportation (DOT) since the 1950s. Unfinished fragments are scattered throughout the state from Wilmington to the mountains of N.C. I-40 construction continues in several areas of the Triangle, said Bill Jones of the N.C. DOT. When

completed, the 20.8-mile, \$104 million stretch of road connecting Hillsborough to the Research Triangle Park will alleviate the rush hour traffic problems on I-85, Jones said. From Wilmington to Raleigh, 35 miles of I-40 have opened. The completion of this section of I-40 is Gov. Jim Martin's main transportation objective and the only highway campaign promise he made in 1984, Jones said. The rest of this segment should be completed by July of 1990. The DOT agreed to complete the expansion of I-40 between Raleigh and Chapel Hill in July before the

start of the U.S. Olympic Festival, Jones said. Much of the construction work was done at night and outside contractors handled all of the project, Jones said. Several contractors submitted bids and the DOT chose the appropriate companies for each segment of construction, he said. Although he had heard stories of some "rough spots" between Raleigh and Chapel Hill, Jones said most of the comments were favorable. But most agree that it is too early to tell how I-40 will impact the traffic patterns.

"The only thing we have noticed is that the wrecks have decreased somewhat," said Sgt. W.P. Garner of the N.C. Highway Patrol. "The flow of traffic is a lot better now especially on Highway 54 coming into Chapel Hill." Before the expansion, traffic on Highway 54 was backed up every morning, Garner said. Officials wanted to wait until well after the festival was over before they made a traffic count, Jones said. With all the excess traffic in the area, it would have been difficult to get an accurate figure, he said.

Town finances special housing program

By **LEIGH ANN MCDONALD**
Staff Writer

About 75 low- to moderate-income families have applied to buy a house in the new Tandler subdivisions built by Chapel Hill and Capricorn/Isler Associates. But the town has not sold all of the 34 houses built under the Home Ownership Program, despite the number of applications received since last spring, said Keith Lankford, an intern in the Chapel Hill Planning Department. Twenty houses are under construction in the Tandler West subdivision on Merritt Mill Road, and 14 are being built in Tandler East on Legion Road. "We are pouring footings and clearing land at this time," said Pete Thorn, part owner of Capricorn/Isler. "There will be three model homes off of Merritt Mill Road which

should be completed by Thanksgiving." The first phase of the project, 11 houses south of the intersection of Grant Street and Merritt Mill Road, will be completed within a year, he said. Capricorn/Isler can sell the houses at reduced prices because the town has taken a lien on the property of the subdivisions, Lankford said. The lien reduces the cost of the houses from a market price of \$80,000 to \$85,000 to a mortgage value of \$50,000 to \$55,000. "The Home Ownership Program is an attempt by the town and Capricorn/Isler Associates to make housing more affordable in Chapel Hill," Lankford said. "This program is a relatively new idea." Homeowners who make a down payment of \$3,000 to \$4,000 must make mortgage payments of \$400 to

\$450. There is an additional 4 percent discount for families who participate in the program before Sept. 25. "This is completely private housing where affordability is made possible by the town furnishing the land and Capricorn/Isler lowering the building costs," Thorne said. "We don't want this confused with low-income housing. The town is taking an IOU from the homebuyers for the land." The property belongs to the people who buy the house unless they refinance or sell, Lankford said. There will be no restrictions placed on homeowners who want to make additions to their house. The Tandler models will be two- and three-bedroom houses with options for a porch, garage and fireplace, Lankford said. Families can also choose a two-story, three-bedroom model. Lankford said families that pur-

chase the houses must meet specific eligibility requirements. A family must have one to seven members, no assets over \$40,000 and have lived or worked in Chapel Hill for at least one year. Families must also have an income at or below 80 percent of the area median income, depending on the size of the family, Lankford said. For example, a family of four must have a yearly income of \$26,700 or less. Families must make a minimum income of \$18,000. The town initiated the program to spark more housing projects, but Lankford said the planning department would determine whether the program is a success before organizing similar programs. Thorn said Capricorn/Isler has bid on similar housing projects in other cities, and has already started one in Winston-Salem.

N.C. Democrats offer leadership forums

By **MEG CRADDOCK**
Staff Writer

In an effort to attract young leaders into its folds, the N.C. Democratic Party will continue to hold Project North Carolina forums across the state. The forums deal with issues that North Carolina's leaders will face in the next decade, said Marianne Triplette, chairman of Project North Carolina. "It's an effort to look at the future leaders in North Carolina and talk about issues that will affect them in years to come," said Jim Van Hecke, chairman of the state Democratic Party.

Although the forums are being sponsored by the Democratic Party, the party's goals and efforts to increase membership will take a backseat to the discussion of issues. "The purpose is to promote thoughtful discussion on issues of the future, to empower citizens with a voice on these issues and to propose creative policy solutions for the 1990's," Van Hecke said. But the project's organizers hope that some of those involved will join the party, said Triplette. "Many of the young leaders have not joined a political party, and the point is to expose them to the achievement and excellence of the

Democratic Party and hope they will be a part of it in the future," she said. Attendance at the forums is by invitation, Triplette said. "We talk to community leaders and try to identify those people with leadership potential," she said. The forums are expected to attract people of all ages, but the audiences, for the most part, will be people in their 20s, 30s and 40s, she said.

The first forum was held in Charlotte on June 3. Other forums will be held throughout the fall in different towns including Chapel Hill. The forums are expected to run through the 1988 election, but they are not candidate-related, said Triplette. Van Hecke said, "It's really just a mechanism to get good thoughtful people to discuss issues."

DTH needs a few new staffers

Want to find out who writes those silly weather reports? Curious about how we pick the bottom quote on the front page every day?

A meeting for students interested in working for The Daily Tar Heel will be held Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. in Room 224 of the Student Union. We're looking for enthusiastic, hard-working writers and copy editors. If you're interested, come on by. Maybe we'll share our secrets with you.

Space shuttle booster rocket passes full-scale firing test

From Associated Press reports

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah — A redesigned space shuttle booster rocket roared into life in its first full-scale test-firing Sunday, a crucial step before the planned renewal of shuttle missions next June.

The 126-foot-long solid fuel rocket blasted orange flame 500 feet, and a thick cloud of smoke boiled 1,500 feet into the sky above Morton Thiokol Inc.'s desert test site 25 miles west of here.

The rocket used up 1 million pounds of propellant during the two-minute test, consuming it at a 9,000-pound-per-second pace, said company spokesman Rocky Raab.

"It obviously ran the right amount of time. The plume ran normal, it appears to be a normal, successful test," said Carver Kennedy, Morton Thiokol's vice president for space programs.

The test of the solid fuel booster was originally scheduled for Thursday, but was aborted three times by test equipment failures.

Three killed in shooting spree

BOSTON — A man armed with an automatic weapon fired random shots from a home Sunday, killing three people and injuring at least three others before taking his own life, authorities said.

"He just began firing shots in the street," said police spokeswoman Jane Sheehan. The gunman shot himself after police armed with rifles surrounded the house, officials said.

The body of one victim was removed from the house after-

News in Brief

ward, Sheehan said. Another person inside the apartment was injured, but his condition was not immediately available.

Two of the victims, including an 11-year-old girl, were pronounced dead at Boston City Hospital, the spokeswoman said.

The shooting was reported shortly after 3 p.m. in a heavily populated, residential area with multi-family homes.

Falwell denounces Bakker

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Rev. Jerry Falwell criticized his predecessor at the PTL television ministry Saturday, saying Jim Bakker needs to stop blaming others for his misfortunes.

"Unfortunately, he has not yet been willing to acknowledge his personal responsibilities in the tragic events of the past few months and continues to lash out and place blame on others," Falwell said Saturday in a telephone interview from his home.

Falwell, who said he was told Saturday night that Bakker called him a tool of the devil during a speech to supporters, said Bakker should confess his sins against God and humanity.

Bakker and his wife, Tammy Faye, addressed a group of about 50 supporters who gathered in front of his Gatlinburg, Tenn. home Saturday to show their support for the ousted PTL leader.

Bakker could not be reached for comment.

Speaker

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1986, when he left to devote his time to developing small industries in Nicaragua.

His goal was to help Nicaraguans become self-sufficient, by teaching them to build and operate their own power plants and industries. Linder had completed a machine shop, a lumber mill and a rice-processing plant at the time of his death.

Linder's family has testified before a congressional committee on his death. They also confronted Vice President George Bush about Ben-

jamin's death at a recent forum in North Dakota.

Serezo said that he didn't think the congressional committee would accomplish anything through their investigation. "I don't see much hope in anything coming out of Congress," he said. "It's a very touchy political situation."

John Linder's speech is sponsored by the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America and the Carolina Committee on Central America.

Service

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a south campus service, Turner said. Students will meet at a specific time and place to be escorted back and forth from south to north campus, she said.

Escorts will be dispatched from a central location so the process will be more efficient, Turner said. The service is expected to go into oper-

ation Oct. 1. The service needs volunteers to help organize the program and serve as escorts, Turner said, and interested students can call the escort service for details. The time and place of a general informational meeting will be announced.

ADVERTISING INTERNS

There will be a meeting Monday, August 31 for anyone interested in interning with the DTH advertising staff. Meet in the DTH advertising office at 4:30 pm — call if you're unable to attend.

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