



Preparation has begun at the East Macon Street Hall's Spring shopping center for Littleton-based Amoco distributor Crawley Oil Company's proposed convenience store and car wash. One of the owners, Leon Crawley, said this week plans are to begin construction as soon as the weather permits completion of grading. The convenience store with

carwash in the rear and facilities for 15 fuel pumps will all be housed under one canopy, Crawley said. Construction will be performed by Bunn and Brantley, general contractors, of Rocky Mount and opening is anticipated for spring or early summer. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

## Board Proclaims Holiday For King

### Existing One Will Be Cut

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
Staff Writer

By unanimous assent, Warren County commissioners Wednesday night designated as a county holiday the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Beginning in 1988, the third Monday in January will be recognized locally as a holiday. Because of real costs to the county associated with the addition of another holiday, however, an existing holiday will be eliminated. Under examination are Easter Monday and the day after Thanksgiving.

The board also accepted the low bid of \$28,200 submitted by Wilbur Smith for engineering services in the Quick City Community Development Block Grant project. Among tasks to be done are design and development of contract plans and specifications for the construction of water, sewer and storm drainage improvements.

The bid submitted by the Wilbur Smith engineering firm was selected from proposals submitted by other firms, the most expensive being \$46,998.

All bids were evaluated by County Manager Charles Worth and Economic Development Commission Director Cathy A. Wilson. Criteria used were: Work Plan-Technical Approach-(30 points), Experience of Firm-(15 points), Qualification of Staff Assigned to Project-(15 points), Understanding of County Area-(15 points) and Fee Schedule-(15 points). The Wilbur Smith firm received an almost perfect score in the evaluation process.

In other business, the board:

—Accepted a \$1,450 bid from Murphy Electric Co., Inc. of Norlina to convert from single phase to three phase the auxiliary generator housed at the Sheriff's department.

—Approved the proposal that the acting hospital administrator's position be located functionally in the county Finance Office and that time worked be charged to the departments for which the work was performed.

—Allocated to the Afton-Elberon fire department an addi-

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The season's first snowfall last Thursday morning waited for a second during the weekend, blanketing the countryside with white and causing cancellation of numerous activities. A number of businesses opened Tuesday after keeping the doors closed on Monday and today (Wednesday) marks the fifth day without school for Warren County students. Warming temperatures are predicted for later in the week. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

## Warren Said Benefiting From Evaluator Program

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
Staff Writer

Warren County continues to reap the benefits of the state's \$2.2 million outside evaluator program. Since Aug. 1, 1986, four individuals, James Jordan, Ms. Sue King, Ms. Betsy Clark and Ms. Priscilla Owens, have served as evaluators and now an additional seven slots are available.

According to Superintendent Mike Williams, Warren County is one of nine school systems involved in the pilot project. Other systems to date are Weldon City, Granville County, Vance County, Stanley County, Kinston City, Lenoir County, Robeson County and Jackson County schools.

"We knew that the state would plug in a state-controlled component to serve these systems," Williams said. "The Warren County satellite, expected to be operational by the end of February, will serve Weldon City and Warren schools," he added.

Seven positions will be available to individuals: satellite director, two secretarial slots and four observer/evaluator slots.

### Cost Of Neglect Studied By Board

"Neglect is costly," Chairperson Eva Clayton said in commentary made Wednesday night at the close of the mid-monthly meeting of county commissioners.

"It makes you wonder how things got in this shape," said Commissioner George Shearin as the list of problem areas identified in the recent board retreat were enumerated. "We know that the needs are legitimate," he added.

In their wrap-up held prior to the evening meeting, commissioners evaluated information learned during the two-day retreat. "We have made some assignments to ensure that progress is made," Chairman Clayton said.

"We have asked the county manager to secure cost estimates for work needed immediately in the areas of safety, health and general maintenance," she said. Projects to be costed include repairs to the court house walkway and wood trim, the old Peter Davis building and the jail walkway. "In addition, we want to ensure that storage areas are not fire hazards," she added.

"We have also asked the county manager to do a functional

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### County Salaries Are Examined In New Publication

Using data submitted by 99 of the 100 counties in the state and population estimates for July '86 from the Office of State Budget and Management, the UNC Institute of Government recently released a listing of salaries of county officials.

County manager's salaries for counties responding to the survey ranged from \$16,727 in Graham County to \$89,690, plus a \$7,200 travel allowance, in Mecklenburg County. The Graham County population base is 7,106. For Mecklenburg County, a whopping 446,236—the largest of all respondents—is reported.

The salary reported for the Warren County manager is \$34,434 with only one prerequisite: an assigned car. Warren is one of the 40 counties in which the county manager also serves as personnel officer. It is one of the 26 in which the position also entails responsibilities of purchasing agent. The estimated population is 16,735.

Reported annual salaries for county commissioners range from \$530 (plus \$55 for additional meetings and 21 cents per mile) in Stokes County to \$9,036, plus 20.5 cents per mile, in Wake County. The Stokes County population is 35,716; for Wake, 363,417.

According to the survey, Warren County commissioners

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Jeffrey Bender of Rt. 2, Norlina receives from First Citizens Bank Vice President Brad Carroll notification of his selection to attend the 35th Short Course in Modern Farming this week at N.C. State University in Raleigh. Bender's sponsors with First Citizens are Peoples Bank and Trust Company, represented by Vice President Roy Pat

Robertson (second from left), and Branch Banking and Trust Company, represented by Nat Weldon, assistant vice president and retail services manager (second from right). At right is Russell King, county extension chairman.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

## Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles Sought For Use During Snow

Emergency Management Director Gary Robenolt this week issued a plea for Warren County residents who own four-wheel-drive vehicles and who may be willing to assist in emergency situations to contact his office.

The recent accumulation of snow and ice on the streets and highways emphasized for Robenolt the need for standby transportation in the event of medical emergencies or power failures, he said, because the county does not own a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Robenolt's office will record the names of persons who will make themselves and their vehicles available to perform services such as getting doctors to patients or patients to doctors and transporting residents to shelters in the event of power failures.

Persons desiring to offer assistance are requested to contact the emergency management director's office on E. Macon Street at 257-1305 or the Warren County Sheriff's Department at 257-3364.

## Advance Payments Offered Farmers

Thomas E. Watson, executive director for the Warren County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said Tuesday that advance payments are being offered during the sign-up period for the 1987 wheat and feed grain acreage reduction programs. The sign-up period ends Mar. 30.

Advance payments represent 40 percent of the projected deficiency payments for wheat and feed grains. "Feed grain producers may also represent 50 percent of their land diversion payments," Watson said.

Deficiency payments are made to farm program participants when the average market price falls below the established target price for a crop. According to Watson, target prices per bushel for 1987 are \$3.03 for corn, \$2.88 for sorghum, \$2.60 for barley, \$1.60 for oats and \$4.38 for wheat. The projected deficiency payment rates per bushel are \$2.10 for wheat, \$1.21 for corn, \$1.14 for

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