

The Warren Record

\$43 Million Approved For Widening U.S. 158 From I-85 To Littleton

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Over \$53 million worth of work on Warren County's roads has been approved. The allocation is part of DOT's \$5 billion Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) approved Nov. 2 by the N. C. Board of Transportation. Last week's "green light" accelerates the schedule for one Warren County project; adds three new ones to DOT's list of planned improvements; and funds repaving of 23.04 miles.

Work On Cross-County Highway Is Scheduled To Begin After 1996

Long Range Projects
An estimated \$9,007,000 will be used on the 17.7 miles of I-85 which runs north of NC 39 to south of US 1. Improvements will be pavement and bridge deck rehabilitation, rail retrofits and raised grading on one bridge. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 1991 and be completed by the fall of 1993. The three new projects will widen 26.2 miles of US 158 and the

replace two bridges over Fishing Creek. An estimated \$43,050,000 will be used to widen US 158 from I-85 to SR 1405 (Gum Court), east of Littleton. The road will become a multi-lane artery with bypasses of Norlina, Macon and Littleton on a new location. The purchase of right-of-way land to widen US 158 is estimated at \$6,100,000, with construction at \$36,950,000. Work will begin after 1996.

Two bridges over Fishing Creek will be replaced at a cost of about \$1,090,000: an estimated \$720,000 for No. 73 on SR 1512, located about 3.5 miles southwest of Grove Hill between NC 43 and NC 58; and an estimated \$370,000 for No. 76 on SR 1513, located about four miles east of Inez between SR 1630 (Inez-Arcola Road) and SR 1635 (Old Avenue Road). Right-of-way work for both projects will begin in federal

fiscal year '94, with construction slated for FFY '95.
Immediate Projects
Over 23 miles of Warren County's roads will be resurfaced as a part of the \$5 billion TIP. A \$1.1 million contract was awarded on Nov. 3 to Nello L. Teer of Durham to resurface 65.8 miles in Warren, Vance and Franklin counties. Warren's portion of the contract will result in the resurfacing of 23.04 miles of roadway: 10.6 miles of US 401, from the Warren city limits to the Franklin County line; 4.9 miles of NC 58, from SR 1640 (Richardson Road) to the Franklin County line; one mile of SR 1237 (Manson-Drewry Road), from US 158 to I-85; 1.1 miles of SR 1365 (Fleming Dairy Road), from NC 903 to SR 1354; 0.24 mile of SR 1354, from SR 1365 (Fleming Dairy Road) to the Halifax County line; and 5.2 miles of SR 1512, from NC 43 to NC 58.

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Stricken Goliath



Members of the Macon Rural Fire Department were on the scene of a wreck last Thursday at the intersection of U. S. 158 and U.S. 158 Bypass near Macon. The driver of the overturned 1978 Mack tractor-trailer was charged with exceeding a safe speed after the trailer skidded and forced the truck into the ditch. See story on page 8B. (Staff Photo by Diane Davis)

Truck Overtakes On Airport Road

A Macon man was charged with driving while impaired and driving left of center after the vehicle he was driving ran off a Warren County road and overturned. N. C. Highway Patrol Trooper R. A. Ennis charged Thomas Pete Wagner, 44, of Rt. 2, Macon with driving while impaired after the 1982 Ford truck he was driving overturned. Ennis reported that Wagner had been traveling east on SR 1325 (Airport Road) when he ran off the right shoulder of the road, pulled the vehicle back onto the road, began to skid and ran off the right shoulder again, struck a ditch bank and became airborne. The Ford traveled 70 feet in the air before landing on the driver's side and turning onto its top in the roadway. Wagner was taken to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson, where he was treated for an injury to his left index finger and released. A passenger in his vehicle, Haley Robertson, 69, also of Rt. 2, Macon, was treated for bruises in the emergency room of Maria Parham and was released. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$2,500.

Car Flips, None Injured Tuesday

Approximately \$1,500 in damage was sustained by a vehicle involved in a one-car accident Tuesday afternoon in the Warren Plains community. Trooper R. A. Ennis of the N. C. Highway Patrol reported that Clarence Edgar Welker, Jr., 16, of Gaines Street, Norlina, lost control of the 1980 Ford he was driving east on R.U.R. 1322 (King Road) at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. Welker lost control of the vehicle in a curve, hit the ditch bank, overturned, hit a light pole and

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Phil Daniel Only Incumbent Casualty

Gardner Wins Seat On Town Board

**By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer**
Three-term Warrenton Commissioner Phil Daniel lost his seat on Warrenton's seven-member town board to non-incumbent candidate Walter M. Gardner, Jr. during Tuesday's non-partisan municipal election.

An unofficial vote count completed at the close of the polls at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday shows Gardner with a total of 175 votes and Daniel with 164. Although the count is not official, election officials said Tuesday night a final count would not change the outcome.

Gardner, who has previously stated his intentions for improved fire protection, economic

development, as well as a plan for systematic growth, said after the election that he was "certainly pleased with the outcome" of the election.

"I'm proud to have been elected," he said. "I'm looking

The Local Vote

Mayor B.G. White..... 247
Eddie Clayton..... 199
Bobby Edmonds..... 197
Walter Gardner..... 175
Ralph Hawks..... 111
Rich Knisely..... 105
W. A. Miles..... 237
Ray Shearin..... 202
Charles White..... 187
A.A. Wood..... 192

forward to serving, and I thank the people who voted for me." Other non-incumbent candidates in the local election, Ralph Hawks and Rich Knisely, only gained 111 and 105 votes, respectively. On Tuesday, 292 Warrenton voters went to the polls and cast their ballots. Two of the ballots were determined spoiled by Board of Elections officials because all of the choices had been marked on the ballot. In 1987, the last local election date, only 121 of Warrenton's 677 registered voters went to the polls. In the unofficial count, Mayor B. G. White, who ran unopposed

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Warren Plains Bear Sightings Reported

**By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer**

Reports of a bear in the Warren Plains community of Warren County have proven to be true, but game warden Conley Mangum has said there is nothing to worry about.

Mangum said the sighting off SR 1314 (Waverly Thompson Road) was the first of the year, and is not uncommon in the area. The sighting was confirmed by the positive identification of a bear track.

"Bears normally migrate through Warren County, but they don't stay here, they just go through," Mangum said.

He said that once bears have been sighted in the western part of the state, he can track their movements toward Warren County by Wildlife Commission radio reports.

"The bears are progressively going east," he said. "I might hear about a bear in Burlington and then in the Williamsboro community of Vance County. Then a bear will be spotted in Drewry. Before I know it, people are spotting bears all over the county."

Mangum said that although the migratory bears come and go, he hears reports of sightings of a bear and two cubs every year.

The bears which come through the county weigh usually between 100-150 pounds, Mangum

said. This estimate of a bear's weight is determined by the size of the bear track. Mangum has also seen a track which indicated a larger bear, one that weighed between 200 and 300 pounds.

Mangum said Warren County residents should not feed bears, nor should they shoot them. Warren County has no bear season, and the fine for taking a bear out of season is a minimum of \$250 and court costs, in addition to a hunter losing his hunting license and gun. A replacement cost of \$1,035 is also applicable, Mangum said.

Although no surrounding counties have bear seasons, counties in the eastern part of the state do have regular bear seasons, he said.

Another recent sighting in Warren County is that of a bald eagle in the Afton community. Mangum said bald eagles, members of the endangered species, are not uncommon in Warren County, but he said that fines for taking a bald eagle are higher than most other fines.

Someone who is charged for taking a member of the endangered species may face a maximum fine of \$1,000 and federal court costs and imprisonment of one year. The replacement cost for any member of the endangered species ranges from \$2,300 to \$3,500, he said.

3 Challengers Win

Delbridge Wins Race For Mayor

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

William K. "Bill" Delbridge has been reelected to another term as mayor of Norlina and three challengers have been seated on the board of commissioners. "I'm just ecstatic over the vote of confidence and feel especially pleased with the tremendous voter turnout," Mayor Delbridge said Tuesday night in a telephone interview.

The incumbent Delbridge received 273 votes to the 149 cast for challenger Dwight Pearce. Pearce had filed for the office of mayor while serving on the Norlina Town Board, a seat he has held for six years.

"I certainly thank all who voted and supported me, and congratulate all winners and wish them luck," Pearce said.

The preliminary election results were announced shortly after 10 p.m. by Norlina Board of Elections Chairman James Overby. He estimated the 415 votes cast represented about 78 percent of the total number of registered voters in Norlina. Overby said there were eight spoiled ballots. "I got a call tonight from a newspaper in Raleigh and they could not believe the turnout here," Mayor Delbridge said. The mayor believes Tuesday's turnout was the highest ever in the history of the town. "I'm really pleased," he said. In the 1987 election, 365 votes were cast.

In Tuesday's commissioners' race, the highest number of votes were cast for Mrs. Margaret Willis, a newcomer, who received 295 votes. Mrs. Willis will be Norlina's first woman mayor pro-tem. "I promise to do my best and live up to the confidence placed in me," she said Tuesday night.

Incumbent James Knight received the second highest number of votes, 290. "I feel very good about this and appreciate the people here who have had confidence in me," he said Tuesday night. "Now I'm ready to get in there and do the best I can."

Newcomer James H. Hundley received the third highest number of votes, 282. "I've enjoyed my years of service to the county (as register of deeds, sheriff and commissioner) and look for-

Raymond Harris Wins Election As Write-In Choice For Board

Raymond Harris, Jr. polled 23 write-in votes to win a seat on the five-man Macon Board of Commissioners Tuesday.

In an uncontested election which saw some 80 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots, Harris easily outdistanced nine other town citizens who garnered write-in votes. Joyce Carroll, with eight votes, was the second high write-in candidate. Mayor M. C. Clary, who won a sixth two-year term as 41 of



DELBRIDGE

ward now to serving my town," Hundley said.

Incumbent Walter Newman received 264 votes, the fourth highest count. Although Newman was unavailable for comment Tuesday night, he had said earlier that he wished to continue serving Norlina's citizens by ensuring that on-going projects were completed.

Newcomer John Dore was the fifth commissioner to be seated, with 243 votes. "I believe we'll all do a good job," he said Tuesday night in a telephone interview. "Now it's time to settle down and get to work."

The remaining votes cast in the commissioners' race were: incumbent William Leonard—225, Clydie T. Champion—141, and James E. Vaughan—102.

Vaughan, who has been mayor pro-tem for eight years, had learned after filing that his job would require relocation the middle of this month, making him ineligible to serve.

The ballot box was sealed with tape by Board of Elections Chairman James Overby and will be locked in Norlina Town Hall until canvassing on Thursday at 11 a.m. Other members of the Norlina Board of Elections are Mrs. Dorothy Bobbitt and Julian Farrar.

After voting ended at 7:30 p.m., the Norlina Board of Elections worked long and hard to tabulate the preliminary results of Tuesday's election.

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Macon's 53 registered voters went to the municipal polling place, said that ballot counting was completed about 8:30 p.m.

Clary received 36 votes, while there was a single write-in for mayor.

Carroll Harris was top vote-getter, being named on 37 ballots. Other winning incumbents were W. L. Edwards with 36, Rowietta Shaw with 33, and Glenn Riggan with 31.