

# The bridges of Walker County

## Officials say county may need \$20 million to replace all the problem bridges

- First in a two-part series -

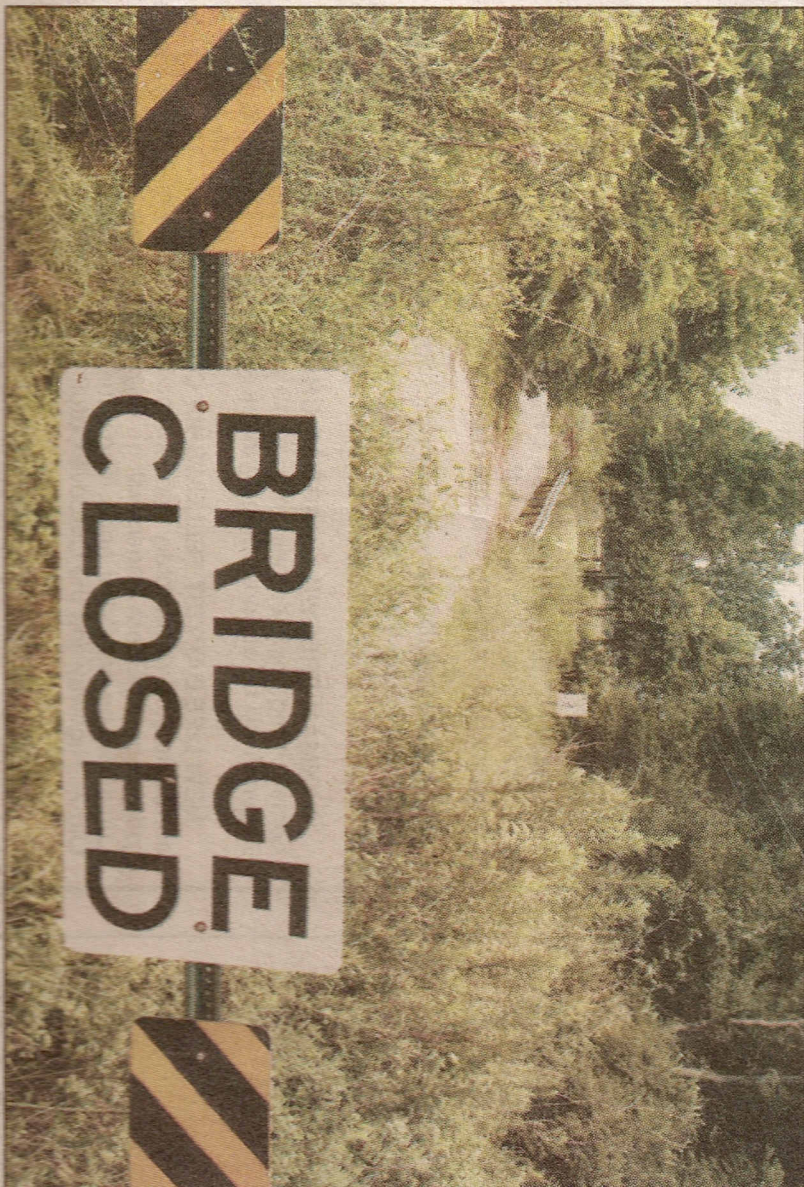
By **ED HOWELL**  
Eagle News Editor

CARBON HILL - County Engineer David Edgill was asked Friday to consider on the age of the bridges of Walker County. While some older bridges are still in fairly good shape, he had to admit on reflection that one out of two county bridges are at least 50 years old, and some date back to the Depression. The county even has the oldest and third oldest active bridges in the state.



David Edgill

"Now you're beginning to scare me," Edgill said with a chuckle. However, in reality Edgill knows the status of bridges in Walker County is no laughing matter. He said the often discussed problem with Ripley Cutoff Bridge at Lost Creek is not unusual - and that it might cost as much as \$20 million to catch up with all the problem bridges in the county.



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell

For a large number of bridges within Walker County, the ability to escape the effects of age and wear is wearing dangerously thin. County officials fear that it might cost as much as \$20 million to catch up with all the problem bridges of the county - even short, simple bridges.

## County engineer: Some county bridges have been out for years

## Miller electe as loc party chair

By **BRIAN KENNEDY**  
Eagle Executive Editor

As the newly elected man of the Walker County Democratic Party, Curt Miller will likely spend a great deal of time in the coming months listening to the opinions and suggestions of local citizens - an activity he welcomes.



Curt Miller

"I'm a people person, I want to hear from the folks of our county," Miller said with a lot of people to what our strengths and weaknesses are as I feel way through the next months. That is something that will be very enjoyable.