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Weather Tuesday: high 70, low 40, hum. 75%. The weather has been great.

The Asheville Citizen reports that the owners of Ecusta Corp. may have to close the Pisgah Forest plant in Transylvania County if the EPA forces the paper mill to meet tougher standards on discharges of dioxin into the French Broad River. The plant was one of 10 North and South Carolina mills EPA had placed on its cleanup list after finding dioxin in a fish downstream of Ecusta.

Thomas Pollard, a member of the N.C. Board of Transportation who violated state water-pollution standards 24 times without penalty was not given special treatment even though he was a major campaign fund-raiser for Gov. Jim Martin, according to Preston Howard, a regional water quality supervisor with the Division of Environmental Management.

A Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International pleaded guilty Tuesday to cocaine-related money-laundering charges and agreed to forfeit a record \$14 million and to help prosecutors

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## School Board Considers Construction Management

The Polk County Board of Education Tuesday night began considering building its new high school by placing in charge a "construction management" firm, rather than a general contractor.

The "schematic" plans for the new school were approved last week, and the architects, Wood and Cort of Asheville, are now in the design phase, architect John E. Cort said Tuesday.

Construction of the new, \$12 million school is expected to be complete by the fall of 1992.

That date seemed a long way off Tuesday as the board listened for three hours to representatives from three construction management firms as they pitched construction management as a concept, and their firms as the most qualified to carry it out.

When the last presentation chart had been packed away and the board was alone again, the board members listened as school board attorney Charles Russell Burrell and architect Cort discussed the pros and cons.

Before adjourning, the board instructed Superintendent Dr. James S. Causby to investigate the references on the three firms: M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.; Construction Control Corp.; and GMK Associates. All three are headquartered in Columbia, S.C.

While there was no consensus of the board for or against

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## Today

Joseph Bathanti, poet and author, visiting artist at McDowell Tech, will present readings of two of his works at 2 p.m. today (Thurs.) in the lecture room of the Polk ICC campus.

## Saluda Residents Want End To School Tax

Now that Polk County schools have consolidated, some Saluda residents want relief from the 5-cent special tax assessment for Saluda School, County Attorney R. Jay Foster told the Polk County Board of Commissioners Tuesday.

Foster, who said he was contacted by the residents, said in a special election in 1981 Saluda voters approved allowing a levy of up to 15 cents per \$100 assessed value.

He said if 50 percent of Saluda voters petition the school board for removal of the levy, the law will require the school board to petition the county for another special election.

However, Foster said if fewer than 50 percent of the voters petition the school board, the school board then has the option not to ask for a special election despite the petition.

"The school people and some Saluda residents may see it (the tax) as beneficial," Foster said.

In other business before the board Tuesday:

• Alton Hambric, the consultant helping Polk County establish an emergency 911 calling system,

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delivered a 200-page guidebook to the board.

"It will take you four hours hard reading to go over this document," he said. "I will be happy to come back later to answer your questions."

Summarizing, however, Hambric recommended that the board negotiate with Alltel Carolina Inc. and explore the option of lease/purchasing a system from a manufacturer.

Hambric said the lease/purchase option would likely save the county \$200,000 over the current Alltel bid.

In addition, Hambric said his plan would include equipment for the entire county, including Saluda, which is served by Saluda Mountain Telephone Co., and a small area served by Southern Bell.

Saluda, however, will not be able to dial 9-1-1 unless the town's phone switching equipment is altered.

• County Manager Steven D. Wyatt read a letter to the board from the officers of the Polk County Rescue Squad saying they cannot house the county's new Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

However, Wyatt suggested a second option as "an answer to prayer." He said he had learned that the Columbus Fire Department is planning to vacate its building in August. The building ownership will revert to the county at that time, Wyatt said.

The county last year agreed to take over EMS service from St. Luke's Hospital by July 1, 1990.

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