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Weather Wednesday: high 72, low 41, hum. 63%.

The Western North Carolina Environmental Council unanimously endorsed a letter by Gov. Jim Martin Wednesday that rejects the possibility of a local veto of the High Quality Waters program but calls for more local input.

A long line of North Carolinians told Chairman Marvin Runyon of the Tennessee Valley Authority Wednesday night in Bryson City to keep the WNC lakes up and that the agency's proposal to limit water draw-down on its Western North Carolina lakes until Aug. 1st each year was totally unacceptable. State and local leaders told Runyon that the water levels of TVA lakes in WNC should be kept up until at least Oct. 1 and preferable until Oct. 31.

Saturday from 10 to 3 there will be a special exhibit of Jeanne Gratner's art at the Arts Palette next to the Fine Arts Center.

The Polk County Commissioners will meet Monday at 3 p.m. at the courthouse in Columbus.

Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. there will be auditions for "The Wizard of Oz" (condensed Dance

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## Wakefield Buys Disputed Property

Bill Wakefield, owner of Wakefield Buick in Spartanburg and TLC Chevrolet/GEO in Tryon, has purchased from the estate of Pauline M. Cowan 18.6 acres on Hwy. 108.

Residents of Beechwood are currently suing the Town of Columbus for rezoning from residential to commercial 4.9 acres of that land adjoining their subdivision. Named in the suit with the town was the owner, the estate of Pauline M. Cowan.

Although the sale was contingent on winning rezoning of the property, TLC Chevrolet/GEO general manager Ron Price said this week that Wakefield had decided to go ahead and purchase the property. The closing was held last Friday.

Town officials and Wakefield are still awaiting a ruling from Superior Court Judge Hollis M. Owens, Jr. on the town's motion to dismiss the Beechwood suit.

After a hearing held in early January, Owens asked the Beechwood attorney to file a written brief explaining why the case should not be thrown out. Owens, who is up for re-election this year, has received that brief, but has not yet ruled.

Wakefield's stated intention for the property on Hwy. 108 is to relocate his TLC dealership there. However, Wakefield told town officials that there are many other uses which would be allowed under the commercial zoning.

## Connie Glassman Named Red Cross Fund Raising Chairperson



Connie Glassman has been named Fund Raising Chairperson of the 1990 Red Cross fund drive, it was announced by Jim Jackson, chairman of the Polk County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross fund drive is conducted annually in March, Red Cross month. Over 100 volunteer canvassers under Mrs. Glassman's direction will cover all of Polk County.

Connie Glassman and her husband, Jerome, live on Dug Hill Rd. Mrs. Glassman, who is a sales associate of Coldwell Banker Town & Country Realtors, has previously been a volunteer Red Cross solicitor of area Realtors during Red Cross

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## Medicare Cuts May Hurt Hospitals

President Bush's proposed \$5.5 billion in Medicare cuts will drive up the price of hospital care and could cause hospitals to close needed but unprofitable services, the North Carolina Hospital Association reports.

The president's budget, released January 29 calls for:

(1) Raising Medicare rates to hospitals by only 4.1 percent rather than the 5.3 percent raise that would allow hospitals to keep up with inflation.

(2) Paying rural hospitals only 85 percent of their expenses for buildings and equipment, rather than 100%.

(3) Paying urban hospitals 75 percent of their expenses for buildings and equipment, down from 85 percent.

(5) Reducing the add-on Medicare payment to teaching hospitals from 7.75 percent of the normal Medicare rate to 4.05 percent, and

(6) Cutting outpatient reimbursement rates 10 percent to all hospitals.

North Carolina Hospital Association figures show that almost three out of every four community hospitals received less in Medicare reimbursement than their costs of caring for Medicare patients in 1988. The new budget cut proposed will make matters even worse, the Association says.

To make up for the losses, hos-

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