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The decade has started out wet in the Thermal Belt. Just in May the precipitation, 7.37 inches, has out-sopped the average by an inch and a half.

So far this year, we have had 37.56 inches of rain, a soaking surplus of 8.41 inches.

Thanks to Robert Dedmond, our official weather recorder, we know nifty little details like this.

The weather Thursday: high 81, low 55, hum. 56 percent.

Harvey Gantt leads Mike Easley 42 percent to 32 percent among likely voters in tomorrow's Democratic run-off for the U.S. Senate nomination.

Democrats ought to be asking who has the best chance of beating Sen. Jesse Helms — and that's Harvey Gantt. Let's hope the polls are right. Mike Easley will have other chances.

The German reunification question will not be resolved at this summit, Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday. But he and President Bush did sign agreements ending the production of poison gas (particularly worrisome at Polk County budget time), and elements of a strategic-weapons treaty.

Polk County Sheriff Boyce

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Tryon High School Class Of 1990

The following Tryon High School Seniors graduated Friday night:

Riva Anne Amendola, Jenny Leigh Butler, Laura Beth Butler, Chaniqua Lashawn Canady, Marlea Ann Elizabeth Capozzi, Karen Denise Constance, Camrin Leigh Corryn, Jason Randolph Cumbie, Kyle Lorenzo Cunningham, Leigh Renae Dusenbury, Bernard G. Edwards, II, Daniel Grant Erskine, Melissa Suzanne Feagan, Cameron David Fitch, Tamara Michele Flynn, Richard David Game, Tiffany Nicole Gary, Stephen Craig Gillie, Stephanie Suzanne Greene, Joseph Jonathan Griffin, Brian Guffey, Lisa Lorraine Henderson, Timothy Edward Hill, Kathy Melinda Jones, Kristin Morris Key, Eric Simmons Killough, Paula Lynn Kuykendall, Christopher James Lasher, Chadwick Loy Lowry, Robin Wilkie McCall, Christopher George McConnell, Timothy William McCurry, Randall Wayne Morgan, Jessica Lynn Parkan, Crystal Leigh Parker, James Gary Pittman, Benjamin Keith Ridings, Clare Boone Smith, Margaret Kelli Smith, Deanna Laverne Steen, Matthew Thomas Strawbridge, Jennifer Alicia Thompson, Jeffrey Wayne Warren, Angela Elizabeth White, Emanuel DeCarlo Wilkins, Jonathan Michael Wilson, Stephen Christopher Wilson.

50th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Jones, Sr., of Peniel Road, Columbus, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6. They were honored at a reception on Sunday, June 3, at Harmon Field Log House in Tryon given by their son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Marlene, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, their son, Tim of Tryon and their future daughter-in-law, Janet Becker, also of Tryon. Mrs. Jones is the former Ruby Gibson of Columbus. The couple has four grandchildren.

Recycling Bins Open

Recycling bins are now open at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.—Fri.

School Fund Balance Confuses Budget Process

The Polk County Board of Education received \$1.62 million from the county for current expenses last year, but spent \$284,024 additional money from its "fund balance" to maintain its programs.

Now that decision is muddying the budgetary waters.

Last year, the school board had \$390,000 in its fund balance — a sort of government savings account for cash flow shortfalls and emergencies. Most governing bodies put aside between eight and 12 percent of their annual budget in a "fund balance."

This year, the school fund balance account stands at \$90,000, Supt. Dr. James F. Causby told the Polk County Board of Commissioners Friday, just enough to cover operating cash shortfalls, not enough to cover another year of reduced local funding.

The local funding was reduced last year when the Tryon supplemental tax was removed.

Yet Causby said his mandate when he was hired to complete the merger was to maintain current programs for both the former Tryon and Polk County schools until new schools could be built and the cost efficiencies of merger realized.

Causby told a group of concerned citizens Thursday

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