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The weather Thursday: high 87, low 56, hum. 52 percent.

That's one weather report. Another says a black cloud has blown into the sky over the future of public education in Polk County.

Note: The Curb Reporter today is devoted to a commentary on that stormy weather.

As you may or may not know, the Polk County Board of Commissioners appears to be headed toward a 3-2 decision which would, in effect, cut the Polk County Schools budget nearly 20 percent from what it was four years ago — not counting for inflation.

The county merged its two systems, and now the schools' only remaining single-parent caretaker is malfunctioning. You might say the schools now have a bad home life. Family counseling is recommended.

We believe the majority wants Polk to be counted among those proud counties where mediocre public education is not good enough, where instead excellence is sought.

Those who say excellence doesn't require an allocation of resources are pulling your leg.

Unfortunately, Polk County
Continued On Back Page

Stearns Park For Polk County

The Columbus Merchants Association's plan for developing a park at Stearns School is being supported by the volunteer work of many county residents.

The committee for planning and fund raising is hard at work.

The committee has developed a plan to complete the park in four phases.

Phase one will include the walking track and park benches; Phase two will add the playground area and picnic tables; Phase three will involve the landscaping; Phase four will be complete the park by constructing the band stand size gazebo and the post lamps.

The committee feels that the county as a whole will benefit from this project. The beautification of the property should be an effort supported by the county's residents. If each of us who attended the school or whose children attended could make a donation of \$5 or \$10, it would be a really meaningful project.

The original model of the park is now on display at the Polk County Library. Donations may be sent to: Stearns Park Fund, Columbus Merchants Association, c/o NCNB, PO Box 216, Columbus, N.C. 28722. — Reporter

The name of John J. Catalano was misspelled Tuesday in a story about his academic scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University.

New Pharmacist At Tryon Pharmacy



Ellis Bradley of Fletcher has joined Ellis Fincher and Tryon Pharmacy as a pharmacist.

A native of Greenville, S.C., Bradley is married to the former Sharon McFadden of Covington, GA. Sharon is the cardiovascular clinical specialist at the VA Medical Center in Asheville.

Ellis Bradley graduated from Wren High School in Piedmont, S.C. and went on to earn his B.S.A. degree in biological sciences at the University of Georgia in Athens.

He continued at the University of Georgia earning his B.S. in Pharmacy in 1985. Since then he has worked three years in pharmaceutical sales with Eli Lilly & Co. and Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, one year in retail at Economart Pharmacy in Etowah, and three years

Continued On Back Page

UNCA Honors

Patrick David Lilly, Andrew Eugene Lynch and Frances Eugenia Ruff, all of Polk County, were named to the Dean's List at the University of North Carolina in Asheville for the spring semester.

The Dean's List is made up of full-time students who have achieved a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Graduates Six

Six Polk County students received degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during commencement exercises May 13.

They are: Michael Alan Finch of Columbus, a BS in Biology; Linda Jean Cunningham of Mill Spring, a BS in Administration of Criminal Justice; Jeffrey Reed Pettit of Saluda, a BS in Math Sciences; Lisa Renee Barnette of Tryon, a BS in Public Health Policy and Administration; and Sean Daniel Rindge of Tryon, a Bachelor of Arts in Geography; and Penelope Mercer Voso of Tryon, an AB in Early Childhood Education.

Communities Enter

Stony Knoll and Saluda were among 95 communities with civic-minded organizations that have submitted entries to participate in the 1990 Western North Carolina Development Program.