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The weather Thursday: high 62, low 45, hum. 78 percent. By Friday at 7 a.m., .6 inches of rain had fallen. But the sun was out and the weekend forecast looked bright.

The last forum for candidates for the Polk County Board of Education and the Polk County Board of Commissioners before the Nov. 6 election will be held tomorrow night (Tuesday). E.P.I.C. (Education in Polk County Is Crucial) will host the forum starting at 7 p.m. at the Stearns auditorium in Columbus.

Hopefully, this forum will produce some sense of the candidates, because so far voters have very little meat on their plates in this election year meal.

A few weeks ago, a couple who had visited in Polk County stopped when they got home and wrote a "Communication" to the Bulletin complaining that the beauty of Polk County was being marred by fast food signs in Columbus.

Several people have commented that they disagreed with the letter, and we printed two letters to that effect Friday. One of those "communications" went further, however, to say that the Bulletin should have

Continued On Back Page

Elder Joins Bulletin Staff



Tony Elder has joined the staff of the Tryon Daily Bulletin as a pressman.

Elder, 33, is a native of Alexander County, N.C. and a graduate of Polk Central High School, class of 1976.

He is married to the former Janice Wallace of Columbus, and they have three children, Aaron, 8, Rachel, 6, and Jesse, 3.

They live on Fox Mountain Road in Columbus.

Before joining the Bulletin, Tony had worked with machinery, repairing knitting machines for Milliken and Sara Lee Knit Products.

He also ran the silicone spraying machine at Michelin Tire Co. in Spartanburg.

"Without any previous

Continued On Back Page

School Board Profiles: Columbus

Each candidate for the Polk County Board of Education has been asked a set of questions by The Tryon Daily Bulletin. What follows is a synopsis of the answers given by the two candidates from Columbus. Voters on Nov. 6 may choose one candidate from each township race: Green Creek, Tryon, Columbus and Cooper's Gap. In Cooper's Gap, Ann Whitmire is running unopposed. Green Creek candidates were profiled Thursday, Tryon candidates, Friday. The Polk County Board of Commissioners candidates will be profiled starting Tuesday, and Ann Whitmire will be profiled before the election.

PHILLIP FEAGAN

Columbus candidate for the Polk County Board of Education Phillip Feagan said he believes there are changes in the air in our education system and he wants to be involved in helping set policies that deal with these important issues.

"There are a lot of changes we're going to see in our education system as our society demands more accountability and more fiscal responsibility in the education process," Feagan said.

One of Polk County's educational system strengths is its dedicated and caring teachers, a high percentage of whom hold or are pursuing a master's degree in their field, Feagan said.

In addition, the county in general supports education, and in the past five or six years, the citizens have supported tax increases translated into higher per pupil expenditures and higher test scores, he said.

"I see us moving toward better facilities with merger and a stronger curriculum."

The weaknesses that Feagan sees are no different than those in other systems. SAT scores are not doing well here, statewide or

Continued On Page Two

PHILLIP FISCHER

Phillip Fischer of Columbus said he feels that the same leadership which brought school merger to fruition in the county is needed to "finish out" and he would like to continue as a member of the Polk County Board of Education.

"A lot of good things are going on and there are still a lot of problems, but we will need to be a unified board," Fischer said.

Polk County's educational system has quite a few strengths, according to the Fischer. "We are a small system, we have real good teachers and we seem to have public support on building the new high school," he said.

"I'm not going to say we're 100%, but things are relatively calm," Fischer said.

However, the increasing need for funding and the county's school buildings are weaknesses in the educational system, Fischer pointed out.

Low test scores also have been a weakness, but the schools are working on test scores which have shown a lot of improvement over the past few years, he said. Fischer said he firmly believes that there needs to be course offerings for every level of

Continued On Page Two