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TRYON, N. C. 28782

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1991

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The weather Tuesday, high 87, low 69, hum. 68 percent. No rain.

Altogether, the 19 Western North Carolina counties grew by 7.6 percent from 1980 to 1990, according to the early census figures reported Sunday in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*.

Polk County grew by 11 percent, to 14,416 residents.

The median age in Polk County is 42.7, meaning half the population is older than that and half younger. Polk's median age is the highest in the region, followed by Macon (40.7), Henderson (38.9) and Haywood (38.3).

Adults 18 years old and older make up 80.6 percent of Polk's population, also the highest percentage in the region.

The biggest increase in population, 18.3 percent, was registered in Henderson County, which grew to 69,285 residents. Watauga, home to Appalachian State University, grew 16.7 percent, to 36,952 residents, and Macon County grew 16.5 percent, to 23,499 residents.

Overall, North Carolina's
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Fire Tax District Proposed For Lake

A new fire tax district for the Lake Lanier area of Greenville County may be in place by August.

Greenville County officials held a public hearing at the Rock Springs Baptist Church on Dug Hill Road last week to discuss fire protection.

County planner John Owings presented an ordinance which, if passed, would create a fire service area and a five-member Board of Fire Control.

The new board would have the authority to levy a tax "not to exceed 20 mills."

If a levy of 20 mills were passed, the owner/occupant of a \$100,000 house on the lake would pay \$80 a year in fire taxes, while a non-occupant owner of the same property would pay \$120.

By way of comparison, the millage rate in Landrum is presently 67.

The ordinance will be presented to the Greenville Council for Internal Governmental Affairs on June 4 where it could be passed and sent on to the full county council.

The boundary of the new fire district would be that portion of the county bounded by Polk County to the north and Spartanburg County to the east, the Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area to the south and southwest, and the North Saluda Reservoir.

This area contains approxi-
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Danielle Denise Owens

Owens To Attend Summer Honors Course

Danielle Denise Owens will be attending a special program being held on the campus of the University of North Carolina, Asheville from June 16 through the 21st.

She was nominated by the Awards Committee for Education, Inc. of North Carolina for her extremely high scores on the California Achievement Test. She was presented an award in recognition of her School Achievement and Future Promise.

Danielle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Owens.
—Community Reporter

Arledge Reunion

Arledge Reunion will be held Sun., June 2, 1991 at Harmon Field. Bring well-filled basket. Lunch will be served around 1 p.m.

Firemen May Rewrite By-laws, Give Women Chance To Reapply

The portion of the Columbus Fire Department by-laws which call for a secret ballot on all membership applications is now under review, Columbus Fire Chief Geoffrey Tennant said Wednesday.

The review was occasioned when two women who were recently denied membership began charging the department with sex discrimination.

Tennant said the by-laws now call for all applicants to be voted upon secretly, and no member reveals how he voted or why. To be admitted, an applicant must have a "yes" vote from every member.

"These applications were handled the same way as anyone," Tennant said. "There have been a number of men rejected over the years."

Tennant would not say what the tally was, only that more than one negative vote was cast.

"I voted for both," he said. "One I felt would have been an excellent candidate and the other I thought deserved a chance."

Tennant said charges of discrimination have not been leveled at the department in the past. However, now that they have, he said he wants to see the department work diligently to resolve any problems.

"We have to be very sensitive," he said. "There has been
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