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TRYON, N. C. 28782

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The weather Monday: high 86, low 55, hum. 68 percent.

Western Carolina University is looking for at least two Polk Countians to take part in a new leadership training program.

The Western Carolina Leadership Development Program, an outgrowth of the Regional Economic Strategy Project in Western Carolina University's Center for Improved Mountain Living, will draw 40 participants from the 17 westernmost counties.

Through a series of several weekend meetings and day-long meetings, this leadership class will be trained to "understand economic development, design economic strategies and gain access to resources and motivate people."

For information, call Jim Crowell at Western Carolina, 704-227-7327. The deadline for applications is July 1.

What's happening:

The St. Luke CME Church will hold a chicken and lamb dinner Thursday at 6 p.m.

The Polk County Planning Commission meets Thursday at 7:30 in the courthouse courtroom.

The Saluda Medical Center
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School Board Expects To Receive Request

The Polk County Board of Education budget discussions this year are a 180 degree turn around from last year's when board members feared having to reduce core programs to fit a too-tight budget.

At this time, the Polk County Commissioners' 1991-92 budget includes full funding of the \$1,941,581 local funds for Polk County Schools Current Expense Budget and all but \$20,000 of the \$342,400 local funds sought for capital outlay projects, Supt. James F. Causby told the Polk County Board of Education Monday.

"This is a 14% increase in total dollars from the county," Dr. Causby pointed out. "They (the commissioners) have worked hard for us."

Because the school bonds were sold with such low interest rates, only 7 cents of the 12-cent tax increase designated for the \$14 million school construction bond referendum will be needed, Dr. Causby explained.

The rest has been freed for other uses, most of which will be used to meet the schools' budget request, he said.

The \$20,000 cut in the local request for capital outlay funds will most likely scratch plans to automate the Media Center at Tryon Elementary, Dr. Causby said. The Board of Education will make the final decision where the \$20,000 will be cut

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Methodist Pastor Assigned To Charlotte

Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, Resident Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has announced the appointment of The Reverend Elijah A. Cockman to Commonwealth United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Reverend Cockman will conclude his ministry at Tryon United Methodist Church Sunday, June 23.

—Community Reporter



John G. Landrum, Jr.

Lanier Library Honors John Landrum

Over the years the residents of this area, through a happy combination of work, skill, interest, understanding, assets and many other positive factors, have developed a community much respected and much enjoyed.

During the past half-century
(Continued On Back Page)

Football Coach Fulfills Boyhood Dream

Gridiron coaching was the boyhood dream for retiring Coach Elmo Neal and the dream came true. "I wanted to coach when I was nine years old," Neal once told a sports writer. "My brother played football before I did and I followed him to the field. We had some great coaches and I wanted to be like them."

"The contribution that Coach Elmo Neal has made to the lives of the young men of our community is significant," said Dr. James Causby as he presented him the Polk County Board of Education Retirement Pin. The occasion was a special retirement breakfast at Brannon's last Monday. The faculty and staff honored Neal with a rocking chair for his new home.

In 1962, Elmo Neal was appointed Head Coach at Tryon High school. His ten years of experience teaching at Swannanoa High School, Hart County High School and Rockmont High School had built a solid record as a class room teacher and as a football coach.

A graduate of Summerville High School, he received a B.S. from Western Carolina University and later received a Masters of Educational Administration from Western. While at Western, he was captain of the football team. His outstanding play as a blocking back and end earned him positions on several all-star teams.

As an educator, he has served
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