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The weather Thursday: high 86, low 61, hum. 60 percent, and by 7 a.m. Friday NO rain had fallen.

We hear that some business people believe The Tryon Thermal Belt Chamber of Commerce doesn't do anything - at least not for them.

What year are they remembering? Have they ever stopped through the office when all the tourists are standing at the counter receiving a welcome?

They surely are not up to date with what's going on at the chamber these days. It's doing a lot of things - all designed to promote a strong business district so vital to everyone's community life.

The chamber right now is taking a survey of businessmen in preparation for some exciting business promotions.

The idea that the "chamber" must do something is faulty logic anyway. The Tryon Thermal Belt Chamber of Commerce is only as good as the business people of the Thermal Belt area. If those who are not satisfied with the chamber's efforts would get involved, the chamber could do much

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Public Hearings Set On Watershed

The Water Supply Watershed Protection Act, House Bill 156, was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1989, mandating the adoption of rules for classification and protection of surface water supplies in the state.

The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) is working to develop land use regulations to be used as guidelines for local governments. The EMC is also working to classify all water supply watersheds according to their most appropriate use.

Proposed rules will establish water quality standards for all water supply watersheds. Land use will be tightly restricted in some areas which could mean a potential impact on some operations, including consequences of complying to adopted regulations. There is concern by many agricultural leaders and realtors that development and growth in agricultural and real estate will be adversely affected. Agricultural activities will be regulated in these identified watershed regions.

Hearings on draft regulations will be held at two locations this week in order to receive public comments. Hearing dates and locations include: Tuesday, August 20, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. and Wednesday, August 21, 7 p.m.,

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School Board Organizes Into Committees

"To do all the things that board members need to do, one meeting a month is not enough," said Polk County Board of Education member Geoffrey Balkam.

So the school board members, during a brainstorming retreat, came up with the idea for committees to enable them to "do more, more efficiently," in the words of board member Phillip Pleasants.

"Committees are a good way of spreading out and sharing responsibilities," said Supt. James F. Causby.

Forming committees will also allow the board members to work more closely with the administration than they would otherwise, Dr. Causby added.

"To be a board member takes a considerable amount of time," said Balkam.

In addition to the regular monthly board meetings and the marathon budget meetings in the spring and early summer, school board members must put in a minimum of 12 hours yearly of training in state sponsored conferences and training sessions, Dr. Causby pointed out.

In addition, board meetings are for information and action, as Balkam pointed out, and to be informed, members must review stacks of material and spend a great deal of time on

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Communication

It is with deep sadness that I have to close my medical practice, Tryon Surgical Clinic, on August 23. The decision has been difficult and one requiring some time to mature to its conclusion. The sadness revolves around the loss of friends and patients that we, both Emily my wife and I have made during the past four years. The communities of Tryon, Columbus and Landrum are full of wonderful genuine people that we will truly miss in our move to Brevard. But the decision to move was inevitable for financial reasons.

The problem lies with the fact that too many of my patients are medicare. My practice is 75% medicare whereas another surgeon in a town of a normal population distribution has only 30% medicare in his practice. The problem concerns the financial reimbursement by medicare to the physician. And the medicare reimbursement is only half to that allowed by the insurance companies for younger non-medicare patients.

When a patient has a surgical procedure performed my fees for medicare are fixed by the federal government. For example I can charge a patient who is not medicare and has insurance \$1.00 for an operation which is the customary fee. But with medicare the government fixed my "allowed fee" at \$0.56 of which they approve only \$0.50. Then the government pays only 80% of what \$0.50 or

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