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The weather Thursday, high 86, low 66, hum. 62 percent, and by 7 a.m. Friday .30 inches of rain had fallen. The temperature was a pleasant, refreshing, firewood splitting 56.6 degrees at 8:35 a.m. Friday.

A labor dispute between truck drivers and W&L Motor Lines of Hickory has a group of friends and neighbors in Holbert's Cove upset.

Five Polk County truck drivers, Chris Ashley, Mike Rhodes, Jerry Conner, all of Holbert's Cove, Tommy Howard of Green River Cove, and Tony Conner of Columbus are on strike.

Ellen Conner told the *Bulletin* Friday that the dispute centers on a new payment formula which W&L came out with recently. It cut the drivers' pay.

"They just want their fair shake," Mrs. Conner said. She said the strike is being conducted without any hostilities.

Today, we feature on the front page the second in a series of stories on the challenges facing the Thermal Belt medical community. Inside, you will also find a conversation between Reps. Newt Gingrich and Charles Taylor regarding

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Landrum Raises Taxes 9 Mills To Upgrade Fire Dept.

A 9-mills increase in the tax rate in Landrum was passed Thursday night, 8 mills of which will pay for a new fire house and fire truck.

The tax rate in Landrum is now 77 mills. The increase represents \$12 more tax annually for a \$30,000 home, and \$40 more annually for a \$100,000 home.

After the short meeting, councilman Doug Brannon said he believes the property owner's increased tax expense will be offset by decreased insurance costs once the fire department is upgraded.

ISO, the national insurance rating agency, last inspected Landrum's fire service capabilities in 1986, fire chief Joe Williams said. Landrum received a 7 rating.

By comparison, Tryon Fire Department is rated more favorably with a 6, while Glassy Mountain has a less favorable 9.

Brannon said the ISO had three main concerns. First, the newest fire truck owned by the department is 21 years old.

Second, the town's pumper trucks do not have enough pumping capacity to meet the ISO's required gallons per minute standard for Landrum.

To meet the standard, both the town's pumper trucks must be on call and must respond to any

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Hugh Murrill

Accepts Position

Hugh Murrill, son of the late Betty Czetwertynski, is now food and beverage director at the Links O' Tryon.

Hugh moved to Tryon in 1934 and then again in 1944. After college at the University of Virginia he became a fighter pilot in the USAF.

After 14 years with Union Camp as a salesman, he entered the resort management field. At age 40 he became president of Madeline Inland Enterprises, a public stock company, which *Holiday Magazine* rated as one of the top 20 resorts in the U.S.

Later he managed resorts in Minnesota, Vail and Beaver Creek, Colo. Scottsdale, Ariz. and several islands in the British West Indies, to name a few.

Hugh and his wife Karin, who owns the Betty Sturgis Shop, have six children and reside in Tryon.

A DOCTOR
IN THE
HOUSE



'90s Economics Make Doctors Businessmen

This is the second in a series of stories by Claire Wharton exploring the challenges facing the medical community in the Thermal Belt.

The federal government provides medical care for the elderly, disabled and the extremely indigent, but there are still 35 million uninsured workers.

Historically, many Thermal Belt employers have not provided group insurance, and as a result the area has a larger than average percentage of uninsured workers.

One Polk County physician said 30 percent of his patients are self-pay.

Physician reimbursements for federal medical care are 25% to 50% below the cost of the care, and the uninsured are a credit risk. So how does a physician in a high Medicare, high uninsured area keep a practice going?

"In order to survive, the physicians have to become businessmen," said family practitioner Dr. Richard G. Trifiro.

Dr. Brad Whitney, a family practice and geriatrics doctor, agreed. "The bottom line is that the only way a physician can maintain the viability of a

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