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TRYON, N. C. 28782

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The weather Monday, high 50, low 27, hum. 35 percent.

There were 210 people seated in the courtroom Monday night for the public hearing on the proposed sign ordinance. Another 37 were standing along the walls, 10 sat in extra chairs in the aisle, 10 in the jury box, and 16 on the lawyers benches. Up front were four members from the sign committee, the county manager, the county attorney - and five county commissioners.

They were all in one room and, saints be praised, no one was rude to anyone else. They stated their diverse opinions openly and with respect.

"The most important thing that happened tonight was that we found out Polk County can get along with Polk County," said commissioner Tim McCormack.

The old arguments were still there. Beating strongly in some chests was the feeling that those "damn Yankees" are trying to tell "us" what to do. But these opinions were expressed directly, frankly, and with humor on both sides. That's a start.

The Hall of Fame statements (Continued On Back Page)

Most Speakers Say 'Yes' To Sign Law

"Say 'No' To Sign Ordinance" signs were posted in the hallway and inside the Polk County courtroom before the public hearing Monday night.

When the hearing began, however, most speakers said "yes."

Polk County Board of Commissioners chairman Jeannie Martin called nine opponents of the proposed sign ordinance to the podium, alternating them with nine who favored the measure.

After that the opponents were done, while another 12 speakers stood up in favor of the ordinance.

Nonetheless, commissioners Sue Cochran and Carson Deck said they believe the county is about evenly divided on the question.

For that reason, both Deck and Cochran said they might favor Vivian Searcy's suggestion that the sign ordinance be put to a referendum.

However, after the meeting County Attorney R. Jay Foster said state law only allows the commissioners to hold referendums on certain types of questions, and sign ordinances are not included.

"The intent is that you don't have every issue decided by voters. Otherwise, why have a board of commissioners?" Foster said.

He said he doubted Polk's state delegates would consider (Continued On Back Page)



Community Chorus Prepares For Concert

shaping up its Christmas Concert to be presented at the Fine Arts Center on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.

Joe Erwin, director of the Chorus, has designed a concert that includes a major choral work with instrumental accompaniment, as well as many familiar and traditional carols, including selected numbers for which he has composed new arrangements specifically for the Chorus.

The enthusiastic response of local area singers to this annual Christmas event and to the specific program was measured by the fact that the 100 prepared music books failed to acconmodate the unexpectedly large turnout. Says Joe, "I wish there were more of these unpredictable, but happy and easily

Well into rehearsals, the solved, problems. You can per-Community Chorus is rapidly form a broader selection of form a broader selection of music with a large number of singers and perform it better. It's true that small groups of real professionals can and do 'bring it off with distinction, but with

> amateur choruses you need numbers to bet the best blend. With this group we have the opportunity to being the community great music sung in a manner that should reach the hearts and true nature of our audience."

Reserved seat tickets are available at \$7 each by mail order to the Tryon Community Chorus, PO Box 54, Tryon, N.C. 28782. (Please state your seat area preference and enclose a self addressed stamped envelope.) Beginning Dec. 4, tickets will be sold at the Fine Arts Center box office from 10-12 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. on weekdays. -Community Reporter