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The weather Wednesday: high 64, low 31, hum. 40 percent, and by Thursday at 7 a.m. 1.25 inches of rain had fallen.

Dr. James F. Causby, superintendent of the Polk County Schools, is a hot property in North Carolina education right now. He was a finalist for the Buncombe County post last year. He has had other offers he's not even considered, and now is a finalist for a big job east of Raleigh.

Like anyone whose stock is on the rise, he has a certain leverage with his employer. That's the way it works - ask any big league ball player, top salesman, or computer wizard.

But Dr. Geoffrey Balkam, a school board member, says Supt. Causby should be satisfied to work out his contract and wait upon the fickle nature of a committee to see if he'll even be employed a little over a year from now. Perhaps Dr. Balkam doesn't understand the marketplace.

Dr. Balkam says if a person, even the superintendent of our schools, wants to move on, he wouldn't "stand in the way." "That's certainly their business," Dr. Balkam says.

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Polk School Board Meets To Consider Causby's Contract

A special meeting of the Polk County Board of Education has been called for Monday night at 7 p.m. at Stearns School to consider Supt. James F. Causby's contract.

Dr. Causby is a finalist for the superintendent's post in the soon to be merged Nash County/Rocky Mount school system, a 26-school system with 16,600 students.

Causby, however, said he has told the board that if he knew he had the support of the board for a contract extension in Polk County, he would stay here. Causby's current contract runs out in June 1993.

The *Bulletin* polled five members of the school board Wednesday and found Dr. Geoffrey Balkam opposed to a contract extension at this time, Georgia Pack and Wayne Bradley in support of an extension, and Ann Whitmire and Terry Edwards undecided.

Board member Phillip Feagan, reached Thursday, said he would not comment on how he might vote Monday night.

"If Dr. Causby has a chance at a better job, it may well be in his best interest to take it," Feagan said. "That's his decision."

Board member Phillip Pleasants still could not be reached for comment.



Rachel Ramsey
Conyers Woodruff

Phase II Project Underway At Steps

Members of the Steps-to-Hope Board of Directors and friends recently braved chilling weather conditions to conduct ground-breaking ceremonies for Phase II of the organizations' renovation and expansion program.

Pictured here Rachel Ramsey, director and Conyers Woodruff (right), president, officially open construction. The actual work will begin in February and will provide vitally needed shelter and office space for the domestic violence services Steps-to-Hope provides in Polk County.

Board community support and a generous matching-fund contribution of the Milliken Company made the fund-raising effort, headed by Bruce Palmer and Bonnie Lingerfelt, successful.

Burglars Caught In Act, Arrest May Solve 30 Area Cases

Nicky Culbreth dropped by his house in Lynn during the middle of the day Wednesday. It was a good thing he did. His call to police may have solved up to 30 breaking and entering cases in Polk, Henderson and Buncombe counties.

On his way home, Culbreth noticed a truck backed up into his brother's carport. A white man and a black man were there.

Culbreth stopped and spoke to the men, who asked where so-and-so lived, said Polk County Chief Deputy Calvin Atkins. Culbreth continued on to his house and found it had been broken into. Jewelry, guns and collectible items were missing.

He called police, gave them the license tag number of the truck. Later in the day, the suspects were found and arrested in Buncombe County.

Polk County Deputy Jerry Ross and Detective James Carter went to Buncombe County to question the suspects. Atkins said they confessed to several breaking and enterings.

Perry Douglas McAfee, 23, of Weaverville was returned to Polk County where he was charged with one count of breaking and entering and larceny. More warrants are expected.

Tony Eugene Davis, 29, of
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