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The weekend weather: Friday, high 62, low 34, hum. 37 percent; Saturday, high 56, low 37, hum. 45 percent; and Sunday, high 64, low 37, hum. 40 percent.

Official weather recorder Robert Dedmond said the groundhog saw his shadow and we should expect six more weeks of winter! The high in January was 66 degrees on Jan. 21 and the low was 16 degrees on Jan. 17th.

It was a dry month with only 3.22 inches of rain, 2.1 inches less than average and 2.39 inches less than January 1991.

"Listen to this, you fat cows of Bashran. You women who live in the hills..." So goes a verse of the Bible, the sixteenth verse in a third chapter to be exact. And they say the Curb Reporter is rough hewn at times!

We read this verse and dozens more at the Upstairs Gallery in Tryon where "3:16: An Exhibit of Calligraphy" is currently showing. Artists who use words and letters as their subject matter have taken the 16th verse of the third chapter in each book of the Bible and written it

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DA 'Shocked' By Light Sentence In Child Abuse Case

Sherry Roache Dyer was found guilty of felony grade child abuse Friday in Polk County Superior Court.

Superior Court Judge Julia Jones of Charlotte sentenced Dyer to seven years in prison, suspended for five years probation. Dyer will be in "intensive probation" for six months.

29th District Attorney Alan Leonard said he had sought the maximum sentence, ten years in prison. He said Dyer, who is currently expecting another child in March, was already on probation for five counts of check forgery.

"I am not sure what motivated the judge to give probation," Leonard said afterwards, "But I was shocked. Short of murder, this was the most horrendous act of child abuse I've ever prosecuted."

Dyer was convicted of abusing her 11-day old daughter on Jan. 30, 1990. The child was treated that day at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center for bruises and for first degree burns on five percent of her body. The next day she began to suffer seizures and a scan discovered her brain was bruised and bleeding.

Leonard said the injuries the infant received have left the child with probable mental retardation, learning disabilities,

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UNC-A Chancellor To Open Great Decisions

Dr. Samuel Schuman, Chancellor of the University of N.C. at Asheville, will present the first lecture in this year's Great Decisions series. Dr. Schuman joined UNC-A in May of 1991. His primary area of scholarship is English Literature. He has taught at the University of Maine, Cornell College in Iowa, Saint Mary's College in California and Northwestern University in Illinois. He is the author of four books and more than 50 published papers. A native of Chicago, Dr. Schuman earned a doctorate in English from Northwestern University, a master's degree from San Francisco State University and a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, Iowa. He is currently President of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Dr. Schuman will speak on *The U.S. Agenda for the '90s: Domestic Needs, Global Priorities*. Great Decisions is presented locally by Isothermal Community College in cooperation with UNC-A and the Foreign Policy Association. It is held at the Polk County Campus of Isothermal in Columbus (902 Hwy. 108 West). The series begins Thurs., Feb. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be eight lecture/discussion sessions on succeeding Thursdays. Please call 894-3092 to pre-register. Fees are \$20 per person. A book is available now for \$10 at the Polk Campus for those who want to get a head start.

Communication

Re: Comments made by Alan Leonard reported in Friday's *Curb Reporter*.

From the bits and pieces that have only been communicated to me by reading *The Bulletin*, I missed a very important meeting of the Town Council. All of the matters I have read about regarding the Bryan Store incident, as well as the assault that occurred on Livingston Street by Officer Lawing, were in a manner that was reactive.

The council members displeasure with Chief District Attorney Alan Leonard should have been handled in an objective manner by including me in the discussion in order to get the entire picture as to the punishment those drug offenders received. Instead of seeking my input, Officer Mike Lawing was requested by Mayor Neely to address the council on those matters.

In the past, Mayor Neely, whenever there was a need to have a problem of such magnitude addressed, the department head was requested to attend the meeting. Yet in the case of this police matter, you failed to do just that. A telephone call would have been in order to me and I would have been there. But Mayor Neely, you requested Officer Lawing to address the council, which was poor judgement as Lawing was the only officer on duty and you took him from the street.

As to Chief District Attorney
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