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HDR

Hickory Daily Record

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012



St. Stephens still unbeaten after win over N-C. 1B



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SCHOOL RAMPAGE

WHAT IF SHOOTING HAPPENED HERE?



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman comforts a young girl during a vigil service at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in Newtown, Conn., for victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting on Friday.

Districts have plans in place; parents react calmly to kids' questions

BY SKIP MARSDEN
lmarsden@hickoryrecord.com

HICKORY — The updates filtering out of Newtown, Conn., about the shootings at an elementary school are every parent or guardian's worst fear. Locally, parents are undoubtedly wondering about the safety of the elementary school their children attend.

While different in approach, each of the three Catawba County school districts has measures in place to react to an intruder,

and at least one district has a policy about school access.

"We have only one way in to all of our elementary schools," said Angela K. Simmons, Director of Student Services for Hickory Public Schools. "All of the exterior doors require a key access."

Each of the three districts has a lockdown procedure, which is launched by a code known to each teacher and administrator. When that code is given, teachers know to close and

See **LOCKDOWN**, Page 7A

Gunman kills 26 at Conn. school, commits suicide

The Associated Press



Tearful President Obama calls for action after shooting. 5A

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters cowered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and

See **SHOOTING**, Page 8A



HICKORY DAILY RECORD FILE

Tony Whisnant, owner of Jokers Wild Sweepstakes Mega Center in Hudson, looks on as his wife, Anne, tests out a machine. On Friday, the North Carolina Supreme Court upheld a law banning video sweepstakes machines.

Sweepstakes swept out

N.C. Supreme Court says games illegal

BY SHARON MCBRAYEY
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HICKORY — The N.C. Supreme Court outlawed Internet sweepstakes gaming in the state Friday.

How long sweepstakes parlors will have before they have to close is not clear at this point.

In its ruling, the state Supreme Court reversed an appellate court decision that said the state's law banning video sweepstakes gaming was overbroad and restricted free speech.

"We conclude that this legislation regulates conduct and not protected speech and now reverse," the written Supreme Court decision says.

The N.C. Supreme Court heard arguments on the video sweepstakes gaming from the state, Hest Technologies, Inc. and Sandhill Amusements on Oct. 17.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a law that went into effect in December 2010 that was supposed to outlaw Internet sweepstakes gambling.

The law that went into effect in 2010 also specifically outlaws machines that a player would have to put money into or that is remotely activated for play. Clerks at sweepstakes parlors or business centers remotely activate the machines.

The state laws outlawing video poker and video sweepstakes games do not affect North Carolina's only casino, where the state's only federally recognized Indian tribe has offered video poker machines since the mid-1990s. The Cherokee casino recently expanded to hire card dealers for live gaming.

Lawmakers have been trying for more than a decade to eliminate video gambling machines and sweepstakes, saying the

See **SWEEPSTAKES**, Page 2A

5 Things to do this weekend

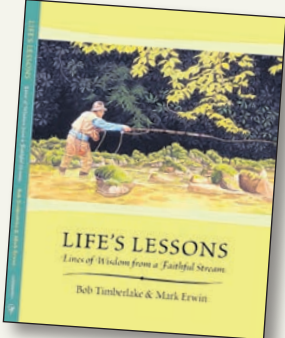
1 Must-Have Autographs

When: Today, 2 to 4 p.m.

Where: Shuford Gallery, Hickory Museum of Art

Cost: Free.

Why go: Bob Timberlake and Mark Erwin will sign copies of



their book, "Life's Lessons: Line of Wisdom From a Faithful Stream." The historic art exhibit by the Blue Ridge Realists opens today.

Web: www.hickorymuseumofart.org.

2 Peanuts Gang

When: Today, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

Where: CAST Theatre, 200 Timberbrook Lane, Granite Falls.

Cost: \$4.

Why go: Creative Arts Show Time presents the young actors production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Absolutely great holiday fun.

Web: www.casttheatre.com.



3 Jazz on the Slide

When: Sunday, 7 to 10 p.m.

Where: Olde Hickory Tap Room, Union Square, downtown Hickory.

Cost: No cover.

Why go: Jazz on Tap is always great, and this time Rick Cline (drums) and Noel Freidline (piano) are joined by the great jazz trombonist Rick Simerly, a musician with a worldwide reputation.

4 Magic of Christmas

When: Today, 3 p.m.
Where: Old Post Office Playhouse, Newton.

Cost: \$5.

Why go: The Green Bean Players offer "The Elves and the Shoemaker" for the whole family's holiday enjoyment.

A wonderful tale of giving.

Web: www.the-green-room.org.

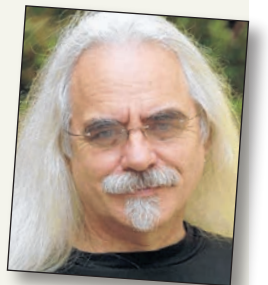
5 Y'all Come On Over

When: Today, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Grind Café, Upper Wine Room, 136 W. Union St., Morganton.

Cost: \$15.

Why go:

You can't share Southern culture any better than Michael Reno Harrell. He's at his best with his Christmas performance in story and song. More humor than you can stand. From Americana Stage.



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