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Weather Thursday: high 69,
low 29, hum. 48%.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev assured independence-seeking Lithuanians on Thursday that they would have a say in their republic's future, but he cautioned that a confrontation with Moscow could lead to tragedy.

The Bush administration renewed its push Thursday to require the sale of hundreds of thousands of alternative-fuel automobiles by the late 1990s in urban areas having the worst air pollution problems.

Roy Neill, Henderson County's assistant district attorney for the past three years is stepping down Feb. 9th to open a private law practice. He will be replaced by Hendersonville attorney Thomas McAvoy "Mac" Brittain, Jr.

The Big Three automakers announced Thursday that sluggish sales will force them to idle nearly 57,000 U. S. automakers through temporary assembly plant shutdowns during the rest of January and in February.

Supermarkets around the nation Thursday shut down mist machines designed to keep fruits and vegetables looking fresh

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Skyuka Zoning Request Goes To Public Hearing

The Polk County Planning and Zoning Commission Thursday night approved a public hearing on Skyuka Road landowners' request for residential zoning.

Planning Commissioner Carl W. Wharton said the request was made by a group representing 75 percent of the landowners of an about 600 acres between Houston Road and Interstate 26 on Skyuka Road. Together, the landowners own 78 percent of the acreage in question, he said.

The landowners have asked the county to zone the area RE-1, a newly approved zoning classification which limits development to single-family residences on a minimum of one acre.

The planning commission will hear public comment on the issue at 7 p.m. February 8 in the commissioner's meeting room of the Courthouse Annex.

The planning commission makes recommendations only to the Polk County Board of Commissioners. While the county commissioners have the final authority to grant or deny such requests the planning commission's recommendations weigh heavily in their decisions.

School Board Meets

The Polk County Board of Education will interview construction management firms and handle any other business which comes before the Board on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stearns Board Room.

Emergency 911 Service Nine Months Away

Alton Hambric, the consultant helping Polk County establish an emergency 911 calling system, said last week that a system could be in place within six to nine months — and for as much as \$100,000 less than the only bid currently on record.

Emergency 911 telephone service allows anyone in an emergency situation to simply dial three numbers, 9-1-1, and reach a central dispatching center for fire, police, and rescue services.

In addition, the caller's telephone number and address appear on a computer screen at the dispatching center so that if the caller is unable to talk, the dispatcher can still send help.

Hambric, of Hambric & Associates of Birmingham, Ala., will be in town Tuesday to make a presentation to the Polk County Board of Commissioners, at 3 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room in the Courthouse Annex.

During their last meeting, the commissioners were informed by County Manager Steven D. Wyatt that no companies had bid on a lease/purchase of the 911 switching equipment.

But Hambric said the county's request for bids might not have been publicized widely enough.

"I had two or three companies say they just heard about it and needed more time (to bid)" he said. Hambric said a rebidding process had begun and that he

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Recycling Center Opened At Landfill

The recycling effort in Polk County got underway on a chilly Friday morning last week when Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeannie Martin cut a ribbon at the first Polk County Recycling Center.

Bins for recycling colored glass, clear glass and aluminum cans now are located at the Polk County Landfill on Highway north of Mill Spring.

The recycling center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

According to Commissioner John Edwards, among the few who turned out for the ceremony, Martin thanked those who attended and made a few remarks about the importance of recycling.

"We have to crawl before we can walk," Edwards said afterwards. "And we have to walk before we can run. The state requires that we get something started (in recycling). This is a start."

North Carolina has set up deadlines for the reduction of solid waste going into landfills.

"We're one of the lucky counties," Edwards said. "This landfill has some time (left before it is full). We have at least five years to get prepared for what is coming. But it is coming."

The county solid waste manager, David Draughn, has

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