Written by Steve Frank
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The “Commodores”, the United States Navy Band’s jazz ensemble from Washington, D.C. will present a free concert at the Watauga High School Auditorium on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Hayes School of Music and Watauga High School Band, this concert features one of the nation’s finest ensembles of its kind. The Navy Band Commodores feature 18 top jazz and “big band” musicians offering a mixture of styles ranging from authentic souns of the swing era to contemporary high energy music. Dizzy Gillespie, Grover Washington Jr., Louis Bellson, and Pete Christlieb are a few of the guest artists who have appeared with the ensemble.

Another highlight of the band’s appearance in Boone and at WHS will be a clinic provided to the Watauga High School Jazz Band. The Commodores will work with the high school musicians that afternoon on music they are currently rehearsing as well as sharing information about jazz performance. On the concert that evening, Mr. Todd Wright, Director of Jazz Studies at ASU will be featured as a guest artist. Wright is no stranger to the jazz scene in the High Country. The concert is free, but tickets are required. Tickets are available from the Hayes School of Music, located in the Broyhill Music Center at 813 Rivers St. on the Appalachian campus. Any unclaimed seats will be available to non-ticket holders just prior to concert time. For further information, call 828-262-3020.