

UCHS...from Page 1A

Usually, the high school announces its Class of 2017 Salutatorian in the Senior Awards Ceremony, but tie-breaking test scores were late in coming back from the state, and the announcement was postponed until the May 23 Senior Scholarship Awards night.

Student achievement was recognized far and wide in the Senior Awards Ceremony last week, to include honors for academics, community involvement, extracurricular and club activities and more.

Logan Bryson, Nicholas Klopschinski and Zach Payton took their Oaths of Enlistment for the U.S. Marine Corps during the ceremony, and Joseph Dalessio and Angel Rakestraw were recognized for their commitments to joining the U.S. Navy.

Klopschinski chose to graduate a week early in order to start his training that much sooner.

High School Principal John Hill shared that he will be leaving the high school as principal next year, and will be working out of the board office as director of human resources and operations.

"It has been a true blessing to work with your children," said Hill. "To see them grow from what I consider middle school kids to these young men and women you see sitting before you on the stage this morning."

"I want you to know that this senior class is exceptional. I'm not a wordsmith, but I want to truly thank you parents for the dedication that you've shown us, and the support that you've shown us throughout your child's four years at Union

County High School."

Students received their graduation caps and gowns on Friday, May 19 – white for the young women and purple for the young men – and wore them for the first time publicly at the Baccalaureate Service at First Baptist Church of Blairsville on Sunday, May 21.

In the student-run service, the Class of 2017 seniors dedicated their baccalaureate to Kenny Henson, a fellow classmate who should have been celebrating his senior year with them, but whose life was cut short in a 2010 car accident.

Before the start of the service, each student received a square of cloth cut from Henson's clothing, something to remember their friend by as they move out into the world.

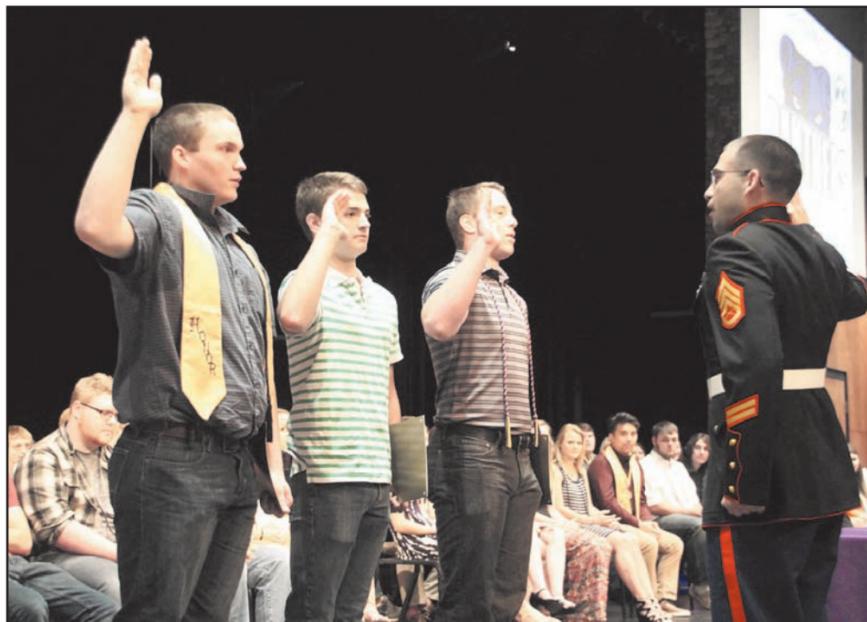
More than a third of the Class of 2017 took a dual enrollment course in high school, and nearly that many taking AP courses for college credit.

Seniors were honored for their achievements in scholarships the evening of Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.

According to Union County High School, in the event inclement weather is forecasted for Friday evening, the UCHS Graduation Ceremony may be held at 8 p.m. at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

The UCHS Graduation Ceremony may also be pushed back 24 hours to Saturday, May 27, at 8 p.m. in Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

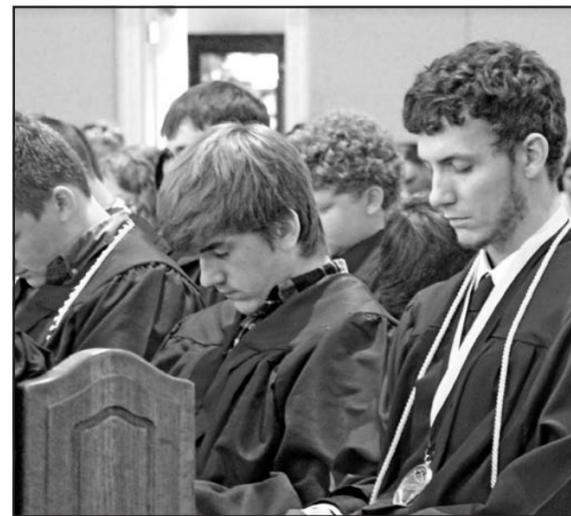
The *North Georgia News* congratulates the Class of 2017 and wishes each of these extraordinary students the best life has to offer as they enter the next phases of their lives.



Logan Bryson, Nicholas Klopschinski and Zachary Payton taking the U.S. Marine Corps Oath of Enlistment during last Thursday's Senior Awards Ceremony at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.



As a special tribute to a lost friend, UCHS senior Kevin Potts sang Kenny Henson's favorite song, "I'll Fly Away," in Sunday's Baccalaureate Service.



Seniors praying during the 2017 Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 21.

Relay...from Page 1A

special Relay For Life BBQ Rib Cookoff the day of the Relay.

"Several BBQ teams have signed up and will be cooking slabs of ribs that Foodland Grocery has donated," said Sue Upchurch. "The public is asked to judge the different ribs with their donations, and there will be official BBQ judges who will be choosing the best ribs and sauce."

"Come join the fun and festivities, as we will have BBQ chopped pork, ribs, hotdogs, chicken and hamburgers to satisfy your hunger pangs. Look for the BBQ grills and follow your nose!"

Upchurch is a cancer survivor who, like McGraw, has been involved with Relay since its inception in Union County, and she said that all the volunteers are thankful for this year's sponsors.

On the entertainment side of the Relay, organized by Vee Laffoon, DJ Dez will be performing starting at 4 p.m., and Raven and Red will go on at 7:15 p.m.

There will be a Kids Korner for children's activities, including a bounce house, train, games, stick-on tattoos, face painting, a raffle, a scavenger hunt and a game called Wet

Sponge in the Face.

Come on out this Saturday, May 27, for some great family fun, and to support a terrific cause – raising awareness and funds for cancer research.

"It's sad that we're still having to fight cancer," said McGraw. "But I love that, like Avis and Carla, these long-term survivors that have benefited from the research – it re-inspires us every year."

The American Cancer Society, through its tremendous pool of local volunteers, has brought several programs to the county to assist cancer survivors, such as Road to Recovery and Look Good Feel Better.

"We try not to make our face, so to speak, just a fundraising face," said Upchurch. "We try to back it up with services that the American Cancer Society offers the community."

The closing ceremony for the day will take place at 10 p.m., at which time Relay For Life Chair Mia Crowe will announce how much money Union County was able to raise toward finding a cure.

The Union County Farmers Market is located at 148 Old Smokey Rd.

Woody Gap...from Page 1A

graduation exercises that have come to define Woody Gap is the candlelight service where the members of the junior class will be on hand to have the proverbial "torch" passed on to the Class of 2018.

Another Woody Gap tradition that will continue is the Senior Class video that features a musical tribute to each member of the senior class, including photos from childhood up through their favorite memories of high school.

For the seniors,

graduation practice got underway on Monday morning while Field Day was held on Tuesday where the winning Falcon Quest team was announced.

Falcon Quest is a K-12 team competition where students strive for excellence in all aspects of their school experience.

Wednesday will be the final day of class for students with an early release time of 11:30 a.m.

Relay For Life Entertainment Schedule 4 to 10 PM - May 27, 2017

- 4 PM - DJ Dez starts the music
- 5 PM - Scavenger Hunt with Prizes (Register at the Kids Korner)
- 5 PM to 9 PM – BBQ Cook off and BBQ Plates for sale
- 5:30PM - Take it to the Track registration (Kid's Korner)
- 6 PM - Opening Service
 - Survivor/Caregiver Lap
 - Team Parade with Banners; All activities closed down for both the Opening and Luminary Service
- 6:30 PM - Kid's Take it to the Track Lap
- 6:45 PM - Cloggers
- 7:15 to 7:45 PM - Raven and Red Musical Duo
- 8 PM - Mens age 14 and up Carlton Shaw Memorial Bare Legs Contest - Prizes for prettiest, ugliest, and hairiest legs; Teams may have as many contestants as they want
- Boys age up to 14 Bare Legs Contest with prizes
- Womens Straw Hat Contest
 - Must decorate the hat with kitchen utensils; Prizes for prettiest and most creative; Teams may have as many contestants as they want & Spirit points are given for every activity the teams have contestants enter
- 9 PM - Luminary Service
- 10 PM - Closing Ceremony
 - Kids Korner Activities: Bounce House, Train, Games, Tattoos (stick on), Face Painting, Raffle, Scavenger Hunt, Wet Sponge in Face Game