

# UCHS...from Page 1A

"We should take the moment we walk out of advantage of opportunities the stadium tonight, and then

never look back in doubt. We should take advantage of the process, figure out what we have, what we can do with the skills that we've learned, and then get out of the way to see what happens, because there's truly so much to do, so much to see."

Adam Bachman, the UCHS Class of 2017 Salutatorian, received recognition for his academic achievement that evening, and was but one of many students to play a part in the graduation ceremony.

Dawson Groves, Holden Helcher, Kevin Potts and Zachary Stone paid tribute to their friend Kenny Henson, who would have graduated with the Class of 2017 had his life not been cut short by a car accident in 2010.

Henson's classmates had a special chair set aside for him in the graduation ceremony, a chair that remained empty because he could not be there to fill it.

Eva Waldrep performed the song "I'll Always Remember You" in honor of her graduating class, and the UCHS Chamber Choir performed the national anthem.

Alyssa Adams, Catherine Dangler and Destyne Dease sang the school's Alma Mater,



The Turning of the Tassels for the Union County High School Class of 2017. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and Somerset Rabb delivered a moving speech of gratitude, speaking on the good times he had with his friends in high school, and he urged his fellow graduates to never give up.

UCHS Principal John Hill delivered diplomas to graduates, then led the Class of 2017 in the "Turning of the Tassels."

Dakota Collins, who could not be present to accept his diploma, was recognized that evening, as was Nicholas Klopschinski, who departed for Parris Island, South Carolina, a week before graduation to start his training with the U.S. Marine Corps.

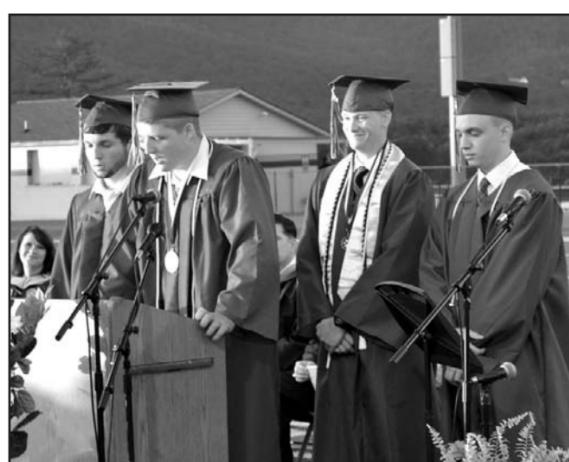
Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield certified the students for graduation, and Braedyn Presley Robbins closed the ceremony before the students made their way down the field to watch their class video.

"Live a life you're proud of, a life full of purpose," said Robbins. "And if someday, you find that you aren't proud of what you've become, I hope you have the strength to start all over again."

"And above all, I pray that wherever you go, you go with all of your heart, but never forget where you came from."

The video featured moments in the lives of the Class of 2017, projected onto an inflatable screen at the edge of the field, and was set to the class song, "When We Were Young," by Adele.

At the conclusion of the video, students tossed their caps in the air, and the school commenced a brilliant firework show, after which family and



Zachary Stone, Dawson Groves, Holden Helcher and Kevin Potts honoring their friend and classmate, Kenny Henson, who could not be there to graduate with the Class of 2017. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Somerset Rabb delivered the "Expression of Gratitude" for his graduating class. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

friends flooded the field to embrace their high school graduates.

School Class of 2017, with its 173 graduates, is thus far the largest graduating class in school history.

The Union County High

## Notice Of Union County School System Special Education Records

In compliance with the Georgia Record Act, the Union County Board of Education records retention schedule, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations on the destruction of data collected, maintained, or used in the provision of a free and appropriate public education of students with disabilities in the Union County Schools, the Special Education department announces its intention to destroy special education records after June 1, 2017.

Records of students who were enrolled in a special education program in the Union County School System who were born before June 1, 1995 and were 22 years of age by June 1, 2017, or graduated with a regular high school diploma, are no longer needed for educational purposes.

The student may need these records for Social Security or other reasons. If you as a former special education student wish to obtain these records prior to destruction, you should contact the Special Education Records Department, Union County Board of Education, 124 Hughes Street, Blairsville, GA 30512. Positive identification will be required before records can be released to the individual.

For more information, contact the Special Education Records Department at (706)

745-2322 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### FFA car wash Saturday, June 3rd 10 a.m.

Union County FFA is holding its first annual car wash at the Agriscience Center on June 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, there will be baked goods. The event will be at 22 Lovell Drive, south of Blairsville on Gainesville Highway. Come one, come all.

### Union County Food Pantry

The Union County Food Pantry hours of operation have changed. We will now be open Monday-Friday 9-11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

We are always closed on federal holidays and for inclement weather.