

Grads...from Page 1A

and Katherine Grace Sanchez is the Class Salutatorian.

Hill said what sets the Class of 2015 apart from other classes before them is their diversity of talent.

"They are so good at so many different things," Hill

said. "They are so gifted musically with the band and chorus, they're involved in athletics and so many different entities within the school.

"Our valedictorian is one of the most talented people I've ever met in my life,"

Hill said. "Rachel excels at everything she does, and we have so many students that are like Rachel, they are just talented in so many different areas."

Todd was the 2015 Union County STAR Student, and the first to advance to STAR state competition. She tied for first in STAR District competition.

Henson...from Page 1A

changed through the years."

Henson was one of three people interviewed to fill the Union County vacancy on the EMC board.

"What people don't know, I was the first one to turn in a petition to be on the board – my petition had more than 300 signatures," Henson said. "I was asked to interview for the board vacancy and I did. I feel like if I've got the support to get elected, it won't matter if I was appointed to the vacancy or elected – one way or another.

"I was going to be on that ballot – one way or another," Henson said. "I can say this about myself, what you see, is what you get. I can be brutally honest. If you don't want my opinion, don't ask. The only person that will

"Rachel is the first Union County student to advance to the state STAR Student competition," Hill said. "Our salutatorian Katie Sanchez is just a wonderful young lady, she sets an example for all the other kids to follow, and she's a very gifted and talented young lady."

At Woody Gap School, Valedictorian Holly Harkins

and Salutatorian Nina Sattler lead the graduating class of 11. Graduation exercises are May 23 at 11 a.m. at Woody Gap High School Gymnasium.

Also on May 23 at 11 a.m., Mountain Area Christian Academy Valedictorian Joel Andrew Kelley, and Salutatorian Courtney Brooke Patrick will lead the gradu-

ating class of nine. Graduation exercises will be held at Morganton Baptist Church in Morganton.

On May 28 at 5 p.m., Valedictorian Alyson Evans, and Salutatorian Amber Graham, will lead Mountain Education Charter High School in graduation exercises at the Fannin County Performing Arts Center in Blue Ridge.

Baccalaureate...from Page 1A

a question that Joshua asked the people of Israel, and that question was, "who will you serve?"

And then Joshua's answered his own question with, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Following the invocation, Emma Smith, with her acoustic guitar gave a moving performance of Francesca Battistelli's Contemporary Christian hit, "Strangely Dim."

Austin Bryson read from the Old Testament reading from Isaiah, Chap-

ter 40:28-31. After Bryson's reading, Madison Chastain read from the New Testament – Ephesians 3:16-21.

Before the Baccalaureate Address, the UCHS Ensemble performed "You are the Music in Me." A Vanessa Hudgens tune from the 2007 film, "High School Musical 2." A performance that brought the entire senior class to their feet to join in on the singing.

The First Baptist Church Youth Minister, the Rev. Chris Miller's Baccalaureate Address was titled *Let it Go*. As

Rev. Miller made his way to the pulpit, the music video to the song, also titled *Let it Go* from the hit movie *Frozen* was played on the church's big screens, providing a bit of an intro to Rev. Miller's message.

Using the story of David and Goliath, Rev. Miller used a young David as an example of someone letting their fears go and trusting in the Lord.

"David trusted his shot, he was well trained and wasn't messing around and I'm telling you to trust in your abili-

ties, trust your talents, trust what you've learned," Rev. Miller said.

The Prayer for the Class of 2015 was given by Morgan Owenby, and Emmi Schakat, Parker Daniel, Amber Sykes, and John Spaulding lit the candles during the Candlelight Service.

Hunter Hogsed gave the other Prayer for the Class of 2015 before Hunter Hughes teamed up with Courtney and Crystal Busbee for a cover of the Third Day hit song *Soul on Fire*.

Memorial...from Page 1A

ceremony includes dedication of a War in Afghanistan Pedestal. The U.S. has officially marked the end of the combat mission in Afghanistan. This 13-year commitment resulted in 2,356 U.S. deaths, 70 of

those from Georgia, and more than 17,674 U.S. wounded in action. The time has come to properly recognize this sacrifice.

The guest speaker for the dedication will be retired Army Command Sergeant Major Arthur Joseph McCann III. McCann served honorably, in Army Airborne, Ranger, and Infantry units for more than 27 years. His combat

tours include Operation Just Cause in Panama, the Gulf War, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, the Soldiers Medal, two Combat Infantryman's Badges, and the Purple Heart Medal.

Memorial Day commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service. Our country

is engaged in a war with terrorism; one that we cannot afford to lose. Put aside for the day any foreign policy issues and honor our fallen heroes. We expect a large turnout with a sincere display of patriotism.

Our community has a large veteran population and remembering those that gave the ultimate sacrifice is the proper thing to do.

Festival...from Page 1A

kicks off between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Festivities for Saturday include a 10 a.m. Memorial Day Parade and a special concert at the courthouse at 6 p.m.

Sunday's events run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the entire weekend will play host to many musical acts.

"Everything will be on the Downtown Square," said Harper. "There will be music Friday night, Saturday night, Saturday day and Sunday day. They'll have acts upstairs. Granddaddy Mimms is the presenting sponsor for the music, so they've been really generous about providing us money to pay for the musicians and things of that nature."

Patrons of the event can expect a variety of musical genres, including Gospel and Bluegrass.

Vendors will be showcasing their homemade wares,



Project...continued from Page 1A

left turn lane."

As agreed in the meeting, bid documents can be acquired from DDA Program Manager Darren Harper for \$200, and the Haralson Project has a 120-day completion timeframe.

including jewelry, pottery, wooden bowls and more, and

there will be judges awarding ribbons for people's work.