

UCHS Senior Honors Night 2014

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North Georgia News
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Family, friends, faculty, and community members were on hand at Blairsville's First Baptist Church last week to honor the 125 members of the Union County High School Graduating Class of 2014.

During the evening, College and Union County Schools Foundation Scholarships were awarded, there was Military recognition, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian were recognized, and Senior Class Awards were presented.

Dr. Patricia Slagle, UCHS Counselor, said "Every single member of the Senior Class received a scholarship or an award tonight."

Dr. Slagle and Rick Silver, UCHS Counselors, led the presentation of college scholarships. Scholarships were presented from 14 colleges, 91 percent of this impressive group of young people will go to college following graduation, and a total of more than \$435,976 in scholarship monies was awarded among them.

"I am very thankful for the community's support of our students," said UCHS Principal John Hill. "The various fundraisers, college scholarships, and donations are overwhelming. It takes a collaborative effort to serve these students, and they are our greatest investment. I know the community support makes a tremendous difference in our student futures. Some of our students are exceptionally bright, but are economically disadvantaged. The generous support from the community in the form of scholarships can open a door allowing these students to further their education."

Young Harris College presented scholarships to 21 UCHS graduates. The scholarships will total \$1.2 million over the next four years.

Victoria Carter, admissions counselor at YHC, said Union County High School



students are among the top academic performers, year in, year out at Young Harris.

"This is a direct result of the superior preparation they have received from the faculty, staff, and administration here," Carter said. "On behalf of the college, I want to thank Union County teachers, administration, and parents for your friendship and partnership over the years."

Jim and Sharon Whittle, parents of the late Union County Sheriff Deputy Derrick Whittle, who died in the line of duty in September 2011, presented the Derrick Whittle Memorial Scholarship Award. The Whittles awarded \$8,000 in scholarship money to six UCHS seniors.

Another touching moment came when Shari Rohrbaugh presented the Earl Odom Memorial Scholarship, in honor of her late father, former Superintendent and UCHS Boys Basketball Coach; and the Ed Rohrbaugh Memorial Scholarship in honor of her late husband and former UCHS Principal.

Shari Rohrbaugh gestured to the Class of 2014 behind her and said, "Ed loved

you all and would be so proud of you."

Next, Hill recognized the Class of 2014 Valedictorian, Reagan Hooper, and Salutatorian, Alice Francis.

PTO President, Beth Hand; Jennifer Ludlum, CTAE Director; and UCHS Assistant Principal C.T. Hussion then awarded gold Honor Stoles (57) to those who achieved a Grade Point Average of 90 or above, and had not lost a credit or failed a class.

Hussion then introduced the STAR Student, Alice Francis, and her STAR Teacher, Amy Payne.

This year, Alice and Mrs. Payne were also selected as the Union County School District STAR Representatives. Hussion presented Francis and Payne with a resolution from District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, (R-Dahlonega).

Next, senior class awards were announced. Hill presented the "Hang Tough Award" to Lindsey Thomas and Seth Nelson.

The "School Spirit Award" was presented to Luther Jones and Haley Jones. "Best All Around" was

awarded to Lauren Zollinger and Dylan Coyne, and "Outstanding Student" to Reagan Hooper.

Several additional awards were presented such as: American Citizenship Awards, Daughters of the American Revolution, President's Award for Educational Excellence, and Highest Average in Course Awards.

Madison Rich, Senior Class Secretary then closed the evening with a special thank you.

"Thank you to all the colleges, organizations and individuals who donated money to better our education," Rich said. "The scholarships and awards are greatly appreciated, and we will be able to put them to great use. Thank you to the community for all of the scholarships and support to our class."

Relay...from Page 1A

food, fun for the kids and the common bond of remembering those that have fought the good fight against cancer.

Like a city within a city, the Farmers Market comes to life as Relay For Life supporters talk, walk, and interact.

The highlight of the evening will be the Traditional Candle Lighting or Luminaria Ceremony.

Last year's fund-raising goal was \$74,000.

More than 100 cancer survivors participated in the 2013 event at the Farmers Market.

"The excitement of returning to the Union County Farmers Market creates a good bit of interest," said Sue Upchurch, event co-chair and logistics chair. "Our committee is so appreciative of the cooperation we receive from Union County government, who works with us to get the Market location ready for the invasion of a bunch of dedicated cancer fighters."

The schedule:
10 a.m. Opening Ceremony (main stage located in middle of market): Welcome; invocation; presentation of American Flag and National Anthem; music; Kids Korner activities: train rides for little ones, bounce house, giant slide, dunk tank & more; Teams begin walking laps,

open their sites with displays, food & raffles galore.

Noon to 6 p.m.: "Sitting For a Cure" opens with opportunity to sit in a brand new 2014 Mustang; get your photo made and donate for a chance to win Mustang memorabilia. Come see what BBQ rib cook-off teams prepare for your enjoyment. There'll be chopped pork sandwiches and funnel cakes, too.

On the main stage: entertainment - limited seating so bring your own chair.

Noon: Mountain Liners Line Dancing Group
1 p.m.: Grits (men's quartet)

1:30 p.m.: Raven and Red (Country/Bluegrass duo)
2:30 p.m.: Blairsville School of Dance Cloggers

3 p.m.: Cody King (Western guitar)

4 p.m.: Jimmie the Clown with balloons and games

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Free skin cancer screening for adults only - Dr. Perry Scallan and staff, Canning Plant office

4:30 p.m.: Survivors picnic gathering & registration

4:30 p.m.: Kids Korner - registration and activities (for children ages 12 and under)

5 p.m.: Take it to the

Track Time honoring childhood cancer fighters - special lap open to youth groups or individual young people in our community

5:30 p.m.: presenting sponsor recognition

5:50 p.m.: all activities stop

6 p.m.: Survivors/caregivers ceremony & lap (main stage)

6:30 p.m.: teams parade with banners & batons

7 p.m.: Blairsville School of Dance Cloggers

7:30 p.m. Carlton Shaw Memorial Bare Legs contest (males only, all ages), prizes for hairiest, ugliest and prettiest legs.

8 p.m.: Activities close (train rides, dunk tank, Kids Korner and others)

8 p.m.: Team competitions & games: ugliest & prettiest shoes; scavenger hunt and more

8:45 p.m.: Main stage area - quiet time in preparation for Candle/Luminaria Ceremony

9 p.m.: Luminaria Ceremony: honor and remember those touched by cancer. Audience will light candles & walk track to special music.

9:45 - 10 p.m.: Closing Fight Back ceremony including awards, friendship circle, benediction and challenge for 2015.

Festival...from Page 1A

beginning to spread like wild-fire across the region.

The Barlow family from Woodstock, who prior to last year's festival, knew nothing of the festival, and they wound up leaving as one of its biggest fans.

"We were in town for the weekend and we passed it on Saturday and decided to stop by, and we came back again on Sunday. We hope to be there again this year. We didn't even know about it but it's really neat."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to tell your family and friends about this unique

event that is held in the heart of Blairsville on the old town square.

Last year's festival brought in more than 50 vendors and hundreds of visitors from around the southeast to downtown Blairsville.

No matter your taste, there were plenty of local artists on hand to suit your fancy.

This year's event will also be "more local" than ever before according to the Downtown Development Authorities' Program Director Darren Harper.

"This year the DDA and

Historical Society will be putting on the festival," Harper said. "In the past we've had to hire someone to put on the event so this year will truly be a local event."

The Downtown Spring Arts and Crafts Festival is becoming quite a phenomenon and one of the many highlights of springtime in the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

Last year's event was held prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Though not held on Memorial Day weekend, expect a crowd at this popular seasonal event.

Godspell in the home stretch - opening May 30th

The entire staff, cast, orchestra and crew are eagerly anticipating opening night at the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville, NC on May 30 for the exciting, upbeat musical *Godspell*. Even though it's been forty years since it closed on the West End in New York, it was updated in 2012 and is a definitely relevant, must-see musical. The only thing they need now is you in the audience when the curtain goes up!

Godspell is composed of various musical parables from *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Jesus Christ recruits a group of followers and teaches them various lessons through song and dance. Toward the end of the second act, the show begins to follow a more linear narrative as Jesus is betrayed by Judas and eventually crucified.

Godspell runs May 30 - June 1 and June 6 - 8 at the

Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville, NC, located at 301 Church St. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Seating is reserved and tickets are on sale now: \$20 for adults, \$11 for students, and group discounts are available. Call the Box Office (828-389-2787) for reservations. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. For complete information, visit the website at peacockplayhouse.org.