

TCHS Honors...from Page 1A



Class of 2019 Honor Graduates during the Senior Honors Program on May 17.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Continued Rogers, "I plan on attending the University of Georgia to obtain a degree in computer engineering. I have always had an interest in technology, engineering and working with computers, so computers seem like the right thing for me."

Rounding out the third spot for the Class of 2019 Top Three, Historian Emily Williams said she plans to attend Kennesaw State University, where she will major in elementary education.

"I decided on elementary education after shadowing a third-grade teacher here, Mrs. Candice Thompson," said Williams. "Helping her in the classroom just solidified my decision to pursue a career in elementary education."

Williams said learning that she had made class Historian was certainly a feel-good moment.

"I was definitely nervous, but I'm really proud of my accomplishments and everything that I've done in my high school career," Williams said.

Principal Hobbs expressed her gratitude for high school Counselor Lana Parker, who helped to ensure that the seniors received scholarships and awards for their hard work.

"Every year after the honors ceremony, I hear feedback from the community and all the scholarship representatives on how this program outshines all the others that they are a part of and how it runs so smoothly," Hobbs said.

The following students will be graduating with Academic Honors: Ella Bury, Kristen Byers, Taylor Cornett, Chase Crawford, Kenzlee Denton, Kendall Floyd, Claire Piquette, Danny Reagan, Chase Rogers, Sylvan Schuette, Cara Wheeler and Emily Williams.

Lady Indians Taylor Cornett and Carly Woodard will be going on to college to earn their degrees with the help of athletic scholarships.

Also announced Friday, Hunter Ledford and Nathaniel Elling will start their journeys after high school defending

their country as they will enlist in the U.S. Army.

Twenty students in this year's class were advanced academic completers, and 22 students were also named as Beta Club members.

Of the 82 students graduating, 40 of them have received Georgia Business Ethics Student Training, giving the students the knowledge of how to be successful in the workforce.

Several students were honored Friday for completing a number of Pathway programs, such as Agricultural Mechanics, Metal Fabrication, Forestry, Wildlife Management, Electricity/ Electric Controls, automobile maintenance and repair, journalism, Allied Health, Sports Medicine, Band, Chorus, Art, Spanish Language, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, and Business & Technology.

The Towns County High School's 82 seniors will return to school once more Friday as they share a final bus ride across town to Foster Park for graduation.

MEC...from Page 1A

of senior superlatives, we have four superlatives," said Young.

These unique superlative awards were put together to recognize students for their individuality and served as a way to award the students with a fun title.

The awards featured creative names, such as the Houdini Award, which went to Savannah Bain for disappearing the quickest after dinner, and the Energizer Bunny Award, which went to Jessi Bracken for her readiness to work and get work done.

Following the superlative awards, students were awarded based on their academic achievements in categories such as math, science, history, English, and CTAE courses.

Student Ethan Nolte received the Mountain Peaks Award, which is given to the student who best exemplifies the values and spirit that the school wishes to encourage.

"This award is given in recognition of representing the spirit of Mountain Ed and serving as a role model for others, and I'm proud to present this award to Ethan Nolte," Perren said.

Some of the students of the school participated in dual enrollment courses and opportunities to help them get an advantage and advance in college courses while they worked for their diplomas.

"Tonight, we want to recognize the students that dual enrolled, which means that they have taken high school



Senior Ethan Nolte receiving the Mountain Peaks Award from MEC Union Site Administrator Roy Perren.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

classes and college classes that serve as a credit for both college and high school," said Counselor Emily Cobb. "We have four students that I want to recognize, and between the four them, there were ... 12 dual enrollment courses that were successfully completed, and they will receive a dual enrollment honor cord at graduation."

The four students that completed the courses were Taylor Jones, Victoria Hilbish, Victoria Singleton and Calli Burgwardt.

Students who are leaving Mountain Ed are happy that they made the choice to attend

the school and pursue their diploma in an environment they were more comfortable in.

"I wish I would have known about the school when I was a freshman, because it is such an amazing school," said graduating senior Jessi Bracken. "It has been better than the regular brick and mortar that I have gone to, and the teacher-student ratio is amazing."

Commencement exercises for the Mountain Education Charter High School Class of 2019 will take place on the Dahlonega campus of the University of North Georgia on Saturday, May 25, at 1 p.m.

Rape Case...from Page 1A

In preparation for the upcoming specially set trial, which will likely take place in Hiawassee, the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office once more presented evidence before a Towns County Grand Jury earlier this month.

"We went back and refined the date range in which the occurrences occurred and refined the charges some, but it's the same situation being

charged, the same trial going to take place," said District Attorney Jeff Langley.

In turn, the Grand Jury handed up a seven-count superseding indictment on May 9 to include charges of statutory rape, two counts of aggravated child molestation, three counts of child molestation and simple assault.

The details of the case and the allegations against Brothers are disturbing, featuring severe

breaches of trust by a guest in a welcoming family's home.

As a traveling evangelist from Ohio, Brothers was known to preach locally from time to time in the same church attended by the victim's family, which he had befriended and stayed with on prior occasions, according to a report by the Dayton Daily News in Ohio.

It was during one of his visits in October 2012 that Brothers allegedly grabbed the girl in her home and committed multiple sexual acts upon her, even becoming violent at one point, allegedly striking her in the face.

Brothers is currently living in Ohio under house arrest pursuant to his 2013 bond conditions.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office in Ohio recently obtained a sample of Brothers' DNA for potential use in connection with evidence gathered from a mattress where the 2012 crimes allegedly took place, according to the Dayton Daily News.

Eggfest...from Page 1A

styles of food here really helps us learn and plan new recipes that we may have never thought to try ourselves.

"We also get the chance to find some parts for our grill from some of these vendors that are selling them at reduced prices. We just love it."

For attendees looking to learn more about the usage of the grill and how to properly prepare their food, classes were held at the bottom of the hill, with people piling in to hear what the experts had to say about cooking on the grill.

"It's important to remember a few things," said Carter during one of the classes. "You only want to use lump charcoal, because briquettes produce too much ash and burn up too quickly, and on top of that, they have chemicals in them that you wouldn't want."

"Also, never use lighter fluid to start the grill. The Big Green Egg is made of ceramic, and that absorbs the odor of the lighter fluid, causing your food to taste bad."

Carter said people should make sure to periodically clean ash out of the bottom of their grills with an ash tool, and to fully clean their grills at least



From savory to sweet, anything can be cooked on a Big Green Egg. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

once a year.

He also suggested different tools and other items that were useful for managing the cooking of foods such as pizza and more.

Following the class by Carter, grill expert Bubba Tim gave a class on cooking brisket in the Big Green Egg, and how to make sure that the temperature was right and how to keep it there.

Tim also ran an Eggfest event in Florida that helped influence the start of the event

in this community.

"This is my first year at this fest, and every fest is different, but I like this one because of the venue, and the mountains here are gorgeous," said Tim. "This is a really great area and community to host the event, and I'm happy to see that it made it this far."

For more information about upcoming events, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.



Porch pickin' by local favorites at the May 17 Eggfest Meet n' Greet. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Tritt...from Page 1A

sideswiped in tonight's accident. It could've been so much worse. God was obviously watching over us tonight. I praise God for keeping us safe!"

The accident is reportedly still under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

One of the country icon's fans, a man named Jeff Farmer, reacted to Tritt's series of tweets about the accident by saying that his sister had been one of the victims in the deadly crash.

"Hey Travis, thanks for the kind words!" said Farmer. "I lost a beautiful sister in that accident and I'm headed there to help my brother-in-law get home. Her name was Tonda Cross, so sing her a song at your next concert... I'm glad you guys are okay."

Tritt responded soon after, saying that he was incredibly sorry for the man's loss.

"I can only imagine the grief that her family is going through. May God give you and your family peace and healing," Tritt said.

Of course, some people expressed concern over whether the Hiawassee concert would be postponed in light of the early morning tragedy, and Tritt reassured everyone that "the



Travis Tritt at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, May 18. Photo by Derek Storm

show must and will go on."

When he finally made his way to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on May 18, Tritt and opening act The Cadillac Three put on a show to

remember.

"So good to be back at the Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee, Georgia, last night!" said Tritt the day after the concert.

Grand Jury...from Page 1A

methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Bonnie Joy Fitzgibbons, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance; three counts violation of Georgia Controlled Substances Act; possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; sale of marijuana.

William Irwin Fitzgibbons, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance; three counts

violation of Georgia Controlled Substances Act; possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; sale of marijuana.

Brendan Michael White, two counts violation of Georgia Controlled Substances Act; sale of marijuana; possession of drug-related objects.

Roy Lee Moneypenny, manufacture of marijuana; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; possession of drug-related objects.

Michael Cale Bowers,

two counts possession of methamphetamine; two counts possession of drug-related objects.

Mindy Lynn Taschner, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Robert David West, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects; operation of a vehicle without revalidation decal.

New members of Towns County High School Beta Club



Since 1952, the Towns County High School Beta Club has been inducting students that exhibit the four essential elements of the Beta mission - academic achievement, character, service, and leadership. In order to be considered for membership, students must have scored in the top twenty percent of their class at the end of either fall or spring semester each year. This year, 27 students were invited to join the TCHS Beta Club. Congratulations to these young scholars!

Front row, L to R: Emily Vargas, Alison Markham, Bria Chastain, Lindsey Giles, Hannah Wecker, Austin Fairless. Middle row: Megan Cothren, Bazya Smith, William Poston, Sophia Shook (returning member), Mai Lim, Kayla Peacock. Back row: Isaiah Boykin, Lillian Landrum, Anya Bury, Liam King, Aidan Berrong, Alexis Butler, Lilly Winn, Rylie Livingston. Not pictured: Wesley Calhoun, Vanessa Floyd, Stephanie Marshall, Hayley Patel, Danny Reagan, Jesse Scott, Maci Walls, True Youngblood