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TCHS Class of 2018 graduates ready for the world

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Eighty-three Towns County High School seniors received their diplomas in front of family and friends during the Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony at Foster Park on May 18.

Both regionally and at the state level, the students of this year's graduating class repeatedly raised the bar throughout their high school careers, proving they will be a tough act to follow.

High School Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs highlighted some of the class' stellar academic and athletic achievements over the years, before watching her own daughter deliver the Valedictory Address that evening.

In her speech, Valedictorian Sara Beth Hobbs first thanked her family, then school faculty and staff for 12

years of support and belief in the Class of 2018.

She thanked the community and residents of Towns County for their continued support of the school system and the students, and she thanked her fellow classmates for allowing her to grow up alongside them.

"High school is chock-full of tiny moments and fleeting memories, and these little moments are what I'll miss most of all," said Hobbs, who went on to recount a number of cherished memories from her time at school.

Continued Hobbs: "However, let us all get one thing straight. The best years of our lives are not behind us. These days and this town have shaped us and will be a part of our lives forever, but any notion that these have been the best years of our lives is absolutely ridiculous."

Hobbs urged her

classmates to "seize the day," assuring them that their best years were still to come.

Salutatorian Zach Davenport was also thankful in his address, and he had two things he wanted to say specifically to the Class of 2018 before bidding them farewell.

"I'm sorry," said Davenport. "Whether I've done anything wrong or not, I wouldn't want anything coming between us in the future. The second and final thing I want to tell the Class of 2018 is that I love you. Whatever paths you choose to take in life, I wish you nothing but the best."

Class Historian Lydia Moss took a few minutes to sum up the experiences she and her classmates had shared up to that point in their lives, offering a poignant reminder of the fleeting nature of life's journey.

"Our years at Towns See *Graduates, Page 8A*



Photo by Lowell Nicholson
Members of the Towns County High School Class of 2018 tossing their caps after graduating on May 18 inside the Recreation and Conference Center.

Towns County Schools announce 2018 TOTY



Photo by Mark Novak

The Towns County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong in their May regular monthly meeting.

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Congratulations to the 2018 Teachers of the Year: Lisa Ledford of Towns County Elementary, Kerry Rogers of Towns County Middle and John Cornett of Towns County High.

Later in the calendar year, these three teachers will

be competing for System Teacher of the Year, with the possibility of becoming State and even National Teacher of the Year.

Principals Dr. Sandra Page, Erica Chastain and Dr. Connie Hobbs announced their respective TOTY at the monthly meeting of the Towns County Board of Education on Monday, May 14.

"This will be (Lisa's) 33rd year, and she taught all those years in Cartersville and then came to Hiwassee," said Dr. Page. "She married a local boy, Danny Ledford, and they had a house up here, so she really feels like this is home, and she's a fit, and we're all tickled that Lisa Ledford is our Teacher of the Year."

See *Schools, Page 8A*

Seniors come together in faith at Baccalaureate

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Many of the Towns County High School Senior Class of 2018 came together at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church on Sunday, May 13, for the time-honored tradition known as the Baccalaureate Ceremony.

This year's Baccalaureate took place on Mother's Day, and

the theme was "Past, Present and Future."

Youth Pastor Jeremy Pearson began the ceremony with a welcoming message for the students and their parents, and Caleb Clark recited an opening prayer.

The Macedonia Praise Team, made up of Jamison Wood, Kendall Floyd, Hayley Stowers and Josie Bradley on piano, performed harmonized

renditions of "Holy Spirit," "Lion and the Lamb" and "O Praise the Name."

Evan Berrong said a prayer for his fellow seniors that they heed God's Word in all they do, and Enotah Baptist Church Pastor and School Resource Officer Donnie Jarrard delivered a message on the importance of remembering one's roots.

"Remember, you're not See *Baccalaureate, Page 6A*



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Towns County High School seniors at the May 13 Baccalaureate Service at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

Memorial Day a time to remember the fallen

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County veterans will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 28, at Veterans Memorial Park in front of Towns County High School at 11 a.m.

Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and county workers joined local veterans Scott Drummond and Dick Metzler on May 11 for the installation of a large anchor in the park to honor Navy veterans and those currently serving.

Bradshaw announced the upcoming service in his monthly county meeting on Tuesday, May 15, and all who attend on Memorial Day will be able to inspect the new anchor for themselves.

Also in the May 15 meeting, Bradshaw spoke for a minute about one of his sons who has joined the military.

"We're just proud of him, so proud of him," said Bradshaw. "He graduated college with honors, a 3.9



Photo by Mark Novak

The installation of a large anchor to serve as a Navy monument inside Veterans Memorial Park at Towns County High School.

grade average for four years. Commissioned in the United States Army, so he will be reporting to Fort Benning soon.

"He will go in as a second lieutenant, he will be an officer,

and we're looking for big things. It does scare me with the thought that he wants to go be an Army Ranger, Airborne School, and go get the bad guys."

See *Memorial Day, Page 6A*

Marijuana odor leads to federal and state charges

News Special
Towns County Herald

On May 16 at approximately 5:15 p.m., two officers with the Hiwassee Police Department responded to a panic alarm at a local business.

After investigating the alarm, the officers questioned the employees about the strong odor of marijuana that they observed upon entering the business.

It was determined that the odor was coming from an adjoining apartment.

The officers secured the premises while a search warrant for the apartment was obtained.

Deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office assisted Hiwassee PD during the execution of the search warrant.

A large quantity of drugs was seized, including marijuana, methamphetamine, steroids and prescription narcotics.

The street value of the drugs is estimated to be over \$5,000.

Three weapons, numerous phones, laptops and



Barry Hunter Collins

US currency were also seized as evidence.

Barry Hunter Collins was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, four counts violation of the Georgia Controlled

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Evidence seized by authorities after a search warrant was executed for Collins' residence.

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