

TCHS Principal Roy Perren said over a million dollars worth of scholarships (over a four-year period) was awarded at the ceremony. He added that these scholarships do not include HOPE. "This group [of seniors] is really driven," said Perren. "They want to succeed."

Perren also said he was thankful for the generosity of those in the community who came out during hard times to provide scholarships for the students.

Some seniors who did especially well on Honor's Day include valedictorians Amber Allen, BreeLee Garrett, historian Kayla Osborn, Navy recruit James LaRoche, athletes Joyce "Nikki" Winn and Chase Ellis.

Scholarships were awarded from the Edward Winters Memorial, Hiwassee Antique Mall, Janie Cobron and Lorraine Sudduth Memorial, Young Harris College, Stephens Masonic Lodge #414, Paul Dyer Memorial, Jerry B. Palmer Memorial, Towns County Lions Club, Joyce Kimsey Holmes Memorial, VFW #7807 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lake Chatuge Rotary, 3 Chix Sophisticated Knits, Unicoy Lodge No. 259 and F&A.M., Order of the Eastern Star, Fieldstone Family Entertainment Center, Towns County Schools Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, Union-Towns Employer Committee, Bank of Hiwassee,

Towns County United Community Bank, Stephens Federal Bank, North Georgia Technical College, Navy ROTC Scholarship, Hiwassee United Methodist Men's Organization, Ray Nicholson Memorial, Barrett & Associates Insurance Work Ethic Scholarship, Danielle Manus Memorial, Montgomery Wilson Memorial, Principal's Scholarships, Melinda N. Stewart Memorial/Theta Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary Love Light Scholarship, Marine Corp League Scholarship, Towns-Union Educator's Federal Credit Union, Carol Rabun Scholarship, Montgomery Wilson Scholarship, Northeast Georgia School Superintendent's Scholarship, Towns County Georgia Association Of Educators, Dr. Lamar Adams Memorial, Kappa Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Jacksonville University

Presidential Honors Scholarship, Pikeville College, Piedmont College, Bryan College, Beta Club Scholarship.

During a presentation ceremony, awards were given by the Beta Club, Student Council, Business Program Completion, Future Business Leaders of America, Teacher Program Completion, Future Farmers of America, Health Occupations Students of America, Band, and Georgia Certificate of Merit, and Senior Leadership.

Lowe's...from page 1

County store to reach \$18 million. The store will provide approximately 75 full time jobs plus additional part time employment opportunities.

"With Lowe's serving as the anchor, projections are that a number of other businesses and jobs will follow, which will result in significant positive economic impact and job opportunities for our citizens," Commissioner Kendall said.

Mathis' pledge of support comes as Commissioner Kendall has learned that the U.S. Economic Development Administration, which assisted in financing the sewer for the county's Industrial Park, approved the county's request to access sewer for Lowe's from the available sewer capacity in the Industrial Park.

Kendall has worked closely with Lowe's officials for several months to iron out complicated issues that come with a project of this size.

All building permit issues are resolved, as well as all environmental protection issues both state and local, Kendall said.

"Issues related to the entrance road have been agreed upon by Lowe's and the county," Kendall said. "Lowe's is to construct the road to county and state specifications."

Upon inspection and approval by the county road superintendent, Kendall has agreed to accept the road from Lowe's into the county road system.

Lowe's also has complied with all county laws related to signage on their prop-

erty and on the highway, Kendall said.

If everything goes as projected and all issues settled, the closing date for the property is February 2010, with construction starting soon thereafter, with an opening date for business in the fall of 2010, Kendall said.

Once the Lowe's project is brought to fruition, Commissioner Kendall said it is imperative that the county, the cities of Hiwassee and Young Harris and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority develop a long-range plan to provide water and sewage for the next decade.

The county government is not affiliated with the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority.

"The county, the cities of Hiwassee and Young Harris and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority are going to have to sit down and develop a long-term service delivery strategy to avoid water and sewer issues in the future," Kendall said.

Mayor Mathis agreed. She said it's time that all parties step up and work for the common good: "providing services to all our residents."

"The city is committed to helping the county grow and prosper, but not on the backs of city residents and customers," she said. "To that end, the city expects cooperation and funding assistance from the county, our Industrial Authority and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority, now and in the future."

Festival...from page 1

endary Progressive Bluegrass pioneers The Seldom Scene.

An awesome day of music begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 6 as Asheville-based Town Mountain opens, followed by a classic country set by acclaimed Nashville singer/songwriter Jim Lauderdale. The third act will be The Steeldrivers, a group of seasoned Nashville veterans who have received rave reviews and a 2009 Country Grammy Nomination for their debut album. The Baton Rouge based Red Stick Ramblers cruise into town next, with their high octane blend of traditional Cajun, western swing, blues, and old school jazz sure to please with their talent and diversity.

Our fifth act will be international acoustic phenoms The Greencards. They have headlined festivals nationally and received a 2008 Grammy Nomination for Best Country Instrumental Performance. They blend bluegrass, country, pop and Celtic influences to create their own style of "High energy acoustic music".

The 2009 Roots Festival closes with a performance by The Dan Tyminski Band. One of Bluegrass Music's most beloved voices, Dan has won thirteen Grammy Awards in his fourteen years as guitarist and vocalist for "Alison Krauss and Union Station." In the year 2000 Dan Tyminski stepped into national prominence as the singing voice of actor George Clooney in the Coen Brothers film "Oh Brother Where Art Thou".

The 2009 Roots and Music Festival is proud to bring these acclaimed acts to The Anderson Music Hall. Camping reservations may be made by calling 706-896-4191, for additional lodging in the area please visit the Towns County Chamber website at www.MountainTopGA.com. For additional information and set times please visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com

Pizza...from page 1

When asked if he knew what the VFW was, MacDougald admitted, "I really don't know much about them."

Most of the seventh graders probably knew very little about the Veterans of Foreign Wars, so the pizza party was more than just a fun day. It was an opportunity for the VFW Post 7807 to introduce themselves to a younger generation and make a good first impression.

According to the website, www.vfw.org, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries includes 2.2 million members in approximately 8,100 Posts worldwide. Its mission is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense. The VFW has a long history of being advocates for veterans' rights.

Locally, Post 7807 holds an annual autumn dinner where they give cash awards to teachers, students, police officers, firemen, and emergency medical technicians for outstanding service.

In spite of the VFW's many accomplishments, house committee member Henson said there would be no lectures or patriotic speeches during the field trip. "They [the students] get to have fun today."

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educational endeavors.

"It's a substantial amount of scholarship money," Behrens said.

Also, for the first time since 2004, the school has co-valedictorians: Amber Allen and BreeLee Garrett. Kayla Osborn is the historian for the Class of 2009.

"Our valedictorians, well, both of them have a very good work ethic, they're both very bright," Behrens said. "They're both active in the classroom, they're both active in clubs, they're both excellent athletes and very active in their community."

"Kayla Osborn is an incredible student as well. These are three very well-rounded young ladies," he said. "They're a credit to their folks and to their community."

TCHS Principal Roy Perren said he couldn't be more proud of a graduating class. He said the Class of 2009 will always be a part of the group of students who earned the Governor's Cup for academic achievement. They'll also be remembered for earning a record number of college scholarships.

Overall, it was a great year for Towns County High School, both academically and in the field

of athletics, Perren said.

"We had 13 seniors on a football team that broke one of the longest losing streaks in the state," Perren said. "That group also went on to become the winningest football team in Towns County history."

"It was a great year again for girls' basketball," Perren said. "The last two graduating classes have really done outstanding in state play-off competition."

"Also, it was a great year for cross country," Perren said, recognizing the achievements of the Lady Indians at the state meet where they finished ninth in Class A. They also were the top public school in a classification filled with private school competition.

Both Behrens and Perren have sound advice for the Class of 2009 as they head out into the real world.

"Work hard, always," Behrens said. "Always keep a positive attitude. Those two things will carry you a long way in life."

Perren agreed. "The Class of 2009 is a persistent group," he said. "They want to be successful. My advice is to never give up on your dreams and always, always be positive."