

## Grads ready...from page 1A

thing was missing when I was your age. Oh, I had a state championship, a college scholarship; I dated and eventually married the best-looking girl in school.

"Still, something was missing," he said. "Jesus Christ was missing from my life. I thought I could get religion when I was old and gray. When I got out in the real world, things weren't as easy as they were at Towns County High School.

"Life didn't make sense until I found Jesus Christ," he

said. "I encourage you to think before you act. Go out and leave a mark in this world. Be everything that you can be."

TCHS Principal Roy Perren encouraged the Class of 2010 to always work hard, and always keep a positive attitude.

"Those two things will carry you a long way in life," Perren said.

"The Class of 2010 is a persistent group," he said. "They want to be successful. My advice to them is to never give up on their dreams and always, always be positive in life."

## TCES Awards...continued from page 1A

honor students have worked hard and done your best and I want you to know I'm proud of every one of you," he said. "Your teachers are proud of you, your faculty, and your parents. We're all proud of you. We know that you have done your best and have gotten to honors day here today.

"Nothing that we want comes easy," he said. "You can get that job that you want by studying hard and doing your very best, getting the best grades you can, and learning all that you can. The difference in the people who have those

exciting jobs and those who don't is almost always education. That's the secret."

Soon after, Principal Don Dermody turned the ceremony over to Assistant Principal Dr. Sandra Page to hand out the awards. One by one, the students, beginning with those on the "A/B Honor Roll" and ending with the "Special Awards," each student got their chance to be recognized for their accomplishments during the school year.

One student in particular, however, stole the hearts and applause of both his classmates

and guests in the audience.

When it was time for fourth grader Rhett Robinson to accept his awards for "All A Honor Roll for the Semester" and "All A Honor Roll for the Year," cheers were heard all around the auditorium. Rhett, stunned by the response, ran to the front of the stage and smiled.

He was so moved by the applause, Principal Dermody had to help him off the stage.

In the end, each student got the recognition he or she deserved and the encouragement to repeat their excellence in the next school year.

## Underclassmen...continued from page 1A

The student with the highest GPA heading into the first week of the final month of the 2010-11 school year becomes Valedictorian, followed by the second highest, as Salutatorian. The student with the third highest GPA becomes the school's historian for the Class of 2011.

It was a fun-filled evening as the school recognized its underclassman for the first time.

"This is the first time that we've done this since I've been here and I think it's something that is long overdue for us to recognize all of our students," said Roy Perren, TCHS principal, as he addressed the crowd at TCHS, from behind the podium in the school's auditorium.

Six other students had reason to work harder as the three highest cumulative Grade Point Averages for the ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grades were announced.

Leading the Ninth Grade GPAs, Brittany Ledford, followed by Ryan Talent, and Claire Wilson. The top 10<sup>th</sup> Grade GPA belonged to Jeannie Bradley, followed by Jessica Rogers, and Kristi McConnell.

"I want to make this a regular occurrence where we recognize not only our students who are graduating, but where we recognize all

of our other students as well," Perren told the crowd. "Thank you for your children; we're very proud of them."

Throughout the evening, students were recognized in their various areas of expertise, including agriculture, business and computer science. Other classes where students were recognized included health science, English, foreign language, math, physical education, science, and social studies. Each teacher had a chance to say a few nice words about the students receiving awards.

The most heartwarming moments of the departmental awards came when TCHS Chorus Director Chris Adams expressed his joy for having award recipient Lisa Boninghouse in his class.

"All I can say to Lisa is that I hope that she's enjoyed being in my class as much as I've enjoyed having her in it," Adams said.

Civics, U.S. History and World History educator Shannon Floyd expressed the joy he has received from teaching his U.S. History class this school year.

"I've had these students for three years and I'm really going to miss not teaching this class next year," Floyd said.

The awards for best scores on the Georgia High School Graduation Test followed. The first group, known as the "516 Club", "is quite a large group," said Perren.

"These are the students that passed all of their graduation test plus, in mathematics, they made a score of 516 or better. To pass the math portion of the graduation test, you have to make a score of 500 but the federal government actually recognizes 516 as a passing score," he said.

Next, honors for students who achieved the status of "Advanced Proficiency" on the graduation test. These students not only met graduation requirements, but excelled in the process.

The "A-B" Honor Roll and All "A" Honor Roll were announced for each grade. At the conclusion of that ceremony, Tiffany Hooper, was honored for the Perfect Attendance Award.

Perren closed the evening's ceremony, satisfied with the fact that all TCHS students, regardless of grade level, had been recognized for their academic excellence.

"There aren't enough words to express just how proud I am of these students," he said.

## Senior honors...from page 1A

YHC, Hobbs said.

"We at Young Harris College would like to thank your faculty and staff here at TCHS for turning out such outstanding students," Hobbs said. "They perform above the norm at the college level. On behalf of Young Harris College, I want to personally thank all that are associated with Towns County Schools."

Friday's Honors Day ceremony in the school's auditorium was a proud moment for families, friends and educators alike as TCHS paid tribute to its graduating seniors.

"It always amazes us," Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens said. "No matter what type of economic conditions we're faced with, it's incredible how well these young people in our community are supported. Believe me, it's very much appreciated."

Doug Green, general manager of Ingles of Hiawassee, awarded the Ingles' scholarships to Jade Garrison and Kayla Hyatt.

The Fieldstone Scholar-

ship was awarded to Alex Bohannon, Tiffany Edge and Heather Lynn Poole; Ethan Burch and Heather Hamilton were awarded the Towns County Chamber of Commerce scholarships.

Austin Arrowood, who presented a couple of scholarships (Fore! Higher Education) himself, received the United Community Bank Scholarship for use toward his future days at Young Harris College.

Alex Bohannon and Jade Garrison were the recipients of the Bank of Hiawassee's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarship, cited for leadership and courage.

Shanna Pettengill, a North Georgia College and State University-bound senior, received the Truman Blasingame Fellowship, awarded by Stephens Federal Bank.

The Stephens Lodge No. 414 scholarship went to Ethan Burch, while the Unicoy Lodge scholarship went to Jeff Stewart.

Other scholarships awarded included the Janie Cobron and Lorraine Sudduth

Memorial, Towns County Lions Club, VFW No. 7807 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lake Chatuge Rotary, 3 Chix Sophisticated Knits, Order of the Eastern Star, Towns County Schools Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, Union-Towns Employer Committee, North Georgia Technical College, Hiawassee United Methodist Men's Organization, Danielle Manus Memorial, and the Montgomery Wilson Memorial.

Much of the morning's festivities focused on announcing scholarships and honors among the Class of 2010.

TCHS Principal Roy Perren was humbled by the turnout for the Seniors Honors Day ceremony.

"We want to thank the parents and our community for their great support of our school," he said. "We are blessed to live in this wonderful place, called Towns County, GA."

When the event's activities were all said and done, only cheers could be heard as the Class of 2010 exited the auditorium.



## UCB's The Bankers Hour scores again

United Community Bank employees entertained thousands of customers and friends with their 16<sup>th</sup> annual live production of The Bankers Hour on Saturday, April 24 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Donations collected from ticket sales now benefit many community charities. The final tally: \$20,800 was raised for charities throughout the United Community Bank footprint in Georgia, western North Carolina and east Tennessee.

The annual event is a family affair and another example of United Community Bank's spirit and commitment to its communities. In that same spirit, UCB is proud to announce the following donations as selected by each location:

Georgia:  
Blairsville: Towns/ Union Habitat for Humanity & Union County Food Bank  
East Metro: A.R. (Gus) Barksdale Boys & Girls Club  
McCaysville: Copper Basin Relay for Life  
Cobb County: American Cancer Society  
Southern Crescent: The Bedford School & The Fayette Samaritans  
Hall County: Elachee Center

Bartow County: Boys & Girls Club, Etowah Foundation, Adairsville Lions Club, Relay for Life;

Savannah: The Coastal Jail Ministries of Georgia, Inc.  
White County: American Cancer Society & March of Dimes;

Rabun County: Rabun County Sharing and Caring & Community Pantry, Inc.

Dawson County: Dawson County Rotary Club;  
Gilmer & Pickens: American Red Cross;

Habersham County: Habersham County Relay for Life;

Blue Ridge: March of Dimes;  
Lumpkin County: Lumpkin County Family Connection & Community Helping Place;

Brunswick: CASAGlynn;  
Towns County: Towns

Co Fire Corps & Scott Hogged Memorial Youth Conservation Project;

Summerville: American Red Cross & American Cancer Society;

Cherokee County: United Way of Cherokee County;

Rome: Rome-Floyd Communities in School;

Gwinnett County: Gwinnett Children's Shelter & Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta;

Forsyth County: ACS Relay for Life Forsyth County;

West Georgia: Carroll County Emergency Shelter;

In North Carolina: Relay for Life

In Tennessee: New Hope Child Advocacy Center  
Cleveland: Cleveland/Bradley County Relay for Life

"We enjoy the opportunity to produce The Bankers Hour each year for our customers and friends, and continue to be humbled by their support and enthusiasm," said Jimmy Tallent, president and Chief Executive Officer of United Community Banks Inc., speaking on behalf of the entire United family. "We greatly appreciate their generosity that enables us to give to so many charitable organizations in our communities."

## Barnes...continued from page 1A

Supporters and detractors alike referred to Barnes as King Roy. His supporters saw him as a man who knew how to get things done. His detractors saw him as a man who bullied his way through the State Capitol to gain support for a personal political agenda.

The fundraising event begins at 11:30 a.m. in the High River Country subdivision. That's a left turn off Georgia 17/75. Follow the signs leading to the property. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Kim Bailey at (706) 896-6747, or (706) 994-2727.