

Graduation...continued from Page 1A

to miss the connections I've made here in Union County High School."

Regarding next steps, Horinek will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology starting in the fall to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Also announced that Thursday was the class salutatorian, McKenzie Hooper.

Hooper made headlines earlier this year after claiming the title of 2018 STAR Student, and she was recognized alongside her STAR Teacher, April Krieger, on May 17.

Following graduation, Hooper plans to pursue an education studying the Korean language in preparation for a career teaching English in South Korea.

Horinek and Hooper have been best friends since the second grade, so it will be a special treat for their class to hear speeches delivered by both of them on Friday, May 25.

"I'm glad that if anyone's valedictorian, it's her, because she really deserves it," said Hooper.

Student achievement was recognized far and wide in the UCHS Senior Awards Ceremony last week, to include honors for academics, community involvement, extracurricular



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Union County High School seniors posing up for friends and family after their May 20 Baccalaureate Service at the First Baptist Church of Blairsville.

and club activities, and more. Sean Dobbins, Evan Gerald, Courage Hull-Hatchett, Brianna Pickelsimer, Emmi Schakat, Cole Wright, Richard Browning, Ethan Ware and Tucker Weldon received honors for having taken oaths to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

Charles Flowers, Matthew Stewart and John Viera were recognized also on

May 17, as they are currently in the process of enlisting in the military.

Students received their graduation garb on Friday, May 18 – the same day as the schoolwide Ulympics! competition and the last official day for seniors – and many of them wore their gowns for the first time publicly in the Baccalaureate Service at First Baptist Church of Blairsville

on Sunday, May 20. Senior Emmi Schakat introduced her dad, Pastor Bill Schakat, as the guest speaker for

the student-led service, which featured vocal performances from senior Faith Smith and the UCHS Ensemble.

The class' achievements were highlighted once again during Senior Scholarship Night on Tuesday, May 22, at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.

More than a third of the Class of 2018 completed dual enrollment college courses in high school, and nearly that many took AP courses for college credit.

In the event of bad weather, the UCHS Graduation Ceremony may be moved indoors to the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

"A decision regarding

this change will be made at the earliest on Friday, May 25," according to the UCHS Inclement Weather Policy. "The graduating seniors will be given five tickets for guests who attend the ceremony at the Fine Arts Center, and each guest will be required to present a ticket upon entering the ceremony."

"For all other guests, the ceremony will be streamed live at the UCHS gym. You may also find a YouTube link to watch the ceremony live at www.ucschools.org."

The North Georgia News congratulates all graduating seniors and wishes them the best as they enter the next phases of their lives.

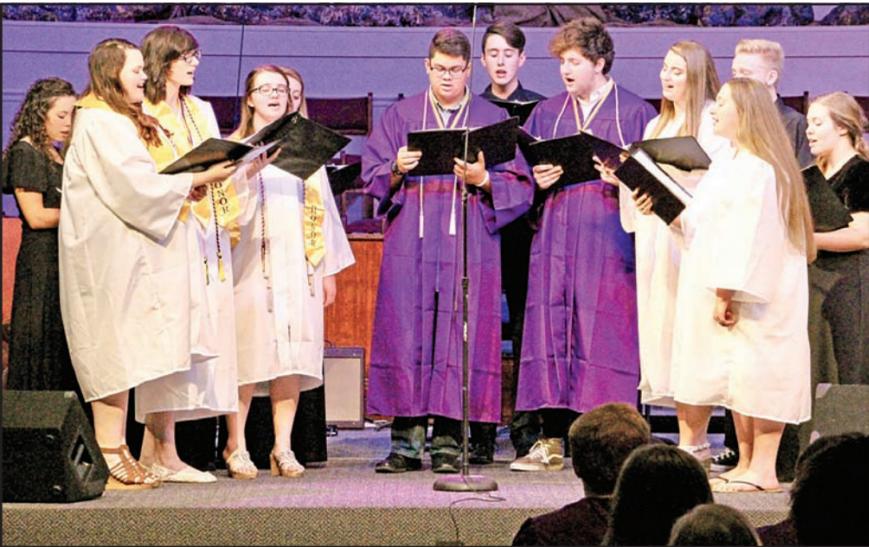


Photo by Shawn Jarrard

The UCHS Chorus Ensemble performing the song "For Good" at the 2018 Baccalaureate.

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