

Senior Awards...from Page 1A

unique things; that's why I took the speech in the direction that I did," she said. "I don't think I can choose just one teacher, but they were all like friends, family, counselors and mentors to me. They were everything."

McBride, who plans on majoring in physics at the Air Force Academy, offered a piece of advice received at UCHS as something she will carry into adulthood.

"Whatever you do, do the best you can," she said. "To me, it means that despite the obstacles and challenges you face, continue to give it your best."

Bradley plans on attending the University of North Georgia, where she hopes to go into the medical field. As for whether she sees herself settling down in Blairsville someday, Bradley indicated a return was undoubtedly in the cards.

"I'm not entirely sure yet (what career path to choose)," she said. "But it's funny,

because I still go back and ask certain teachers what they think I should do because I trust them so much. They've all made such an impact on my life. I think they know my skills better than I do.

"If I can get a job here, I will definitely come back. It's an amazing place to raise kids."

During last week's Honors and Awards Ceremony, several seniors received awards for their hard work and dedication at UCHS.

Those recognized were Justin Bryson, English; Journey Hunter, Social Studies; Thomas Mellendorf, STEM; and Audrey Goeltz, Spanish. On top of their other honors, the Math award went to Bradley, and McBride received the Science Award.

The Fine Arts awards went to Grace Weldon, Theater; Brianna Epperson, Band; Mackenzie Smith, Art; and James Farris, Chorus.

Other senior honors went to Savannah Lueckert, Lexile

Award; Austin Brown, Access Honor Roll; Hannah Von Hof, FFA Stole Recipient; Anastyne Gibson, School Spirit Award; Wright Hogsed, Hang Tough Award; and Nathanael Allison, Inspiration Award.

The Outstanding Student Award went to Bradley, and McBride picked up the Best All-Around Award.

CTAE honors went to Von Hof, Agriculture and Entrepreneurship awards; Dakota Carroll, Automotive; Adelia Pyle, Business; Robert Flowers, Computer Science; Dylan "Luke" Prather, Construction; Kallie Brown, Education; Jacob Roach, Engineering; Savannah Dyer, Food Science; Madison Brown, Patient Care; Desaray Patterson, Sports Medicine; Clayton Strickland, Welding; and Caroline Collins, Work-Based Learning.

As previously reported, Will Harkins earned STAR Student honors for his high achievement on the SAT, and he chose Mrs. Frizzell as his STAR Teacher.

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"But I do plan to go to college after a gap year, to let the country calm down a little. I'm going to study either forestry or sustainable agriculture. I'm more interested in forestry, but I think sustainable agriculture will be in higher demand.

"If all goes to plan, my friends and I will hang out together again, to sing and eat and shoot the breeze at my luxurious ranch house."

Lee is thankful for his community as well. He transferred to Woody Gap after attending home school through the eighth grade, and he said the school in Suches made the adjustment more manageable, which may not have been the case at a larger school.

"I think the class size was small enough where there was never a rush, and we acted more like a family than a classroom," he said. "One example that stands out was in 10th-grade science class.

"At the time, I didn't

understand how credit cards worked; I didn't know anything about them. So, I asked before class, and (the teacher) spent 25 minutes explaining everything he knew about credit cards.

"During Social Studies, there were times we just talked about life, whether it be politics or whatever was bothering us at the time. In English, our teacher did an exceptional job of preparing us for the coronavirus and answering our questions."

Waldroup concurred, recognizing everyone who has mentored him since his first day of kindergarten in the Valley Above the Clouds.

"I want to thank all my teachers, K-12, who helped me through schooling," he said. "I want to thank each of them for guiding me through my school years, putting up with me when I was a handful, and just being good people, in and out of school.

"I could have made it

through without them, but I'd be a cranky rear-end who wouldn't have done half as well if they weren't there."

Woody Gap will say goodbye to the Class of 2020 on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. The ceremony will occur in the school parking lot for close family only. Everyone else may observe graduation from across the street at the Suches Community Center as a COVID-19 precaution.

Asked if he's looking forward to Saturday's exercises, Lee didn't hesitate with his answer.

"I'm dreading it," he said. "We're all going in very different directions, and I have no idea what I'm going to do — maybe move out West. I'm sure our paths will cross again, but it could be a long while.

"I compare it to when my older siblings moved out; you're happy to have the bathroom to yourself, but you're really going to miss having a friend. So, it makes me very sad that we didn't get to spend our final three months together."

Early Voting...from Page 1A

in absentee voting is welcomed by many in 2020.

And now that the state is finally ready to resume electoral proceedings amid one of the strangest election seasons on record, people who do decide to vote in person should expect longer than usual wait times, as social distancing measures will be implemented.

For the General Primary, voters will be selecting candidates for various local, state and federal offices to lead their party of choice in the Nov. 3 General Election, and winners of the Nonpartisan Election will be sworn into office in 2021.

Sample ballots listing all candidates in the June 9 election can be found at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

It should be noted that the Special Election to fill the remaining term of retired U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson will occur in November. As such, people will not see this race on their General Primary Election ballots.

Early voting for the June 9 elections runs weekdays between now and Friday, June 5, during which time locally registered voters can cast their votes at the Union County Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., even during lunchtime.

The one exception will be Memorial Day, or Monday, May 25. There will be no voting in Union County on Memorial Day, as the courthouse will be closed in observance of the federal and state holiday.

Voting is taking place inside the Jury Assembly Room on the courthouse's bottom floor, though people will not be entering the courthouse through the regular security screened entrance. Instead, voters will be using a clearly marked separate entrance closer to the voting area.

Entry to the courthouse proper will be blocked off from the early voting area, so that people with regular courthouse business will have to enter through the lower main entrance.

Hand sanitizer will be provided by the Union County Government, and all election equipment will be regularly cleaned by employees of the Registrar's Office and poll workers.

Voters who find themselves too busy to vote during the scheduled weekdays can participate in one weekend day of early in-person voting on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the courthouse, also during lunchtime.

Since this is a primary, voters will need to declare a political party to receive a

ballot.

Those who voted early for the Presidential Preference Primary will receive a ballot without presidential candidates, while people who didn't get to vote in that election will receive a ballot with presidential candidates.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day are eligible to vote during early voting, though May 11 was the registration deadline for voters looking to participate in the June 9 election.

Absentee Ballots marked for the May 19, 2020, General Primary Election are good for the June 9, 2020, election. The election date was changed after the ballots were printed.

The state has worked to fix instructions that came with many absentee ballots saying that each voter should have received two envelopes with their ballot: one to place the ballot in for privacy and another to place the enveloped ballot in for mailing.

However, the ballots don't actually come with two envelopes. Instead, people should fold the included piece of paper around the ballot for privacy before inserting the ballot into the mailing envelope.

By the end of last week, the Registrar's Office had received and entered more than 6,200 absentee ballot applications out of some 18,000 active registered voters, with about 2,600 absentee ballots having been cast at that time.

Election Day voting on Tuesday, June 9, will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

with absentee ballots due to the Elections Board by 7 p.m. at the latest.

If people want to fill out their ballot applications/ballots and drop them off in person during early voting, they can do so using a specially marked box affixed outside the upper entrance to the courthouse.

People who did not receive an absentee ballot application due to either having a P.O. Box or experiencing an address change since initially registering to vote can call the Registrar's Office at 706-439-6016.

For more information on applying for an absentee ballot, visit the Secretary of State's Office website at sos.ga.gov, or call/swing by the Registrar's Office at 65 Courthouse Street.

Voters can access mvp.sos.ga.gov ahead of the election for information on voter registration status, mail-in application and ballot status, poll location, registration information on file with the county office, sample ballots and more.

UC Historical Society's Brick Walk

To show our appreciation for the overwhelming community support for the Union County Historical Society's Brick Walk, we are extending the current price of \$50 per brick. Please call the Historical Society at 706-745-5493 or come by the old courthouse to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one. N(May20Z1)CA