



Photo by Annette Harvison - Herald Staff

Bobbie Hicks is shown (right) handing out certificates and job-site tools to recipients of the Garrett Hicks Memorial Foundation Tools for Success awards. Shown assisting with the effort is Greene County Vocational School welding instructor Dale Box. Box is also shown (Inset) dropping the tailgate for two recipients loading one of the gang boxes presented to students. Since its inception, the Hicks family has used the Tools for Success Program to assist 63 Greene County graduates with the tools they need for a successful beginning to their careers in the workforce.



► Tools

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put those skills to use. One student traveled from Augusta, Ga., where he was working, to join his fellow classmates at the barn. And with all this pandemic has taken away from their last days of their youth, this fellowship was one thing it couldn't hinder.

"I am so glad we did it at the barn," said Hicks. "It's the best place to hold this ceremony. Lesha came up to me after and said we are never doing it at the Vo-Tech again."

"It was just the right place," Hicks said. "It means so much to us to show these students that recognition.

Most of them have three years invested in this."

Hicks said everything came together at the last minute. They were able to get the welding boxes from Lowe's the day before the celebration with extended time to hold the memorial ride. And having the presentation at The Barn added new meaning to the celebration as Hicks said it was a special time to honor these students on Garrett's home ground. She said it was such a blessing, and these students will never know how much it means to the family to support them as they move into adulthood with a career in welding like Garrett.

"They've earned their career in high school," Hicks said. "It's so important to recognize these students. It's like a non-scholarship scholarship, so to speak. Other students get scholarships for sports and grades, these students get tools they need on the job."

"I hope this class grows to 25. I don't know how we'll do it," Hicks said. "but I feel like the Lord makes a way, just like he did this year. I feel blessed. As much as this foundation does for them, they can't imagine what it does for us."

The Garrett Hicks Memorial ATV Ride has

been rescheduled to Saturday, June 13, at The Barn on Brushy Creek Road. A silent auction will be held at the barn, and the winner will be drawn at the event for the raffle on a grill built by the senior welding students, which is one way these students have already given back to the foundation, Hicks said.

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William Carey Graduate ...

Shelby Cszasz, a 2017 graduate of Greene County High School, recently completed her Bachelor's of Science degree in microbiology from William Carey University. Cszasz, who also finished WCU with a minor in chemistry, graduated summa cum laude.

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