

Community

Union County

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popular was he that he received two nominations to run for president of the United States, but he never made it to that high office. Many believed Scott's lack of support for the presidency stemmed from his infamous part in the Indian Removal.

Woody Gap is the gap in the mountains through which Georgia Highway 180 winds southwest to meet Georgia Highway 60 at Suches. Woody Gap, Woody Lake in Suches, and Woody Gap School were all named for Union County's beloved Forest Ranger Arthur Woody and early Woody set-

tlers there. John Woody, Ranger Woody's paternal grandfather, was a founder of North Georgia Agricultural College at Dahlonega. John Woody had also fought with the U.S. Army at the famed battle of Gettysburg, bearing a U.S. flag which has become a treasured legacy of the Woody family.

Known as "the barefoot ranger," Arthur Woody began working for the Forest Service in 1912 as a surveyor. His love for the forest and outdoorsman expertise were recognized and in 1918 he became Georgia's first forest ranger over the newly-established Blue Ridge

District of the Chattahoochee National Forest. His work with the Civilian Conservation Corps and his efforts to bring the deer back to the forests and stock the lakes with trout, bass and bream are notable.

Likewise, he wanted better education for the Suches community. Plans began in 1936 to build a school that would consolidate the scattered schools of Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Cooper's Creek, Sprigg's Chapel and Valley into one complex. Arthur Woody and his son Walter made numerous trips to Atlanta on behalf of establishing the consolidated

school. These men bought the land that was formerly owned by the Governor Joseph E. Brown family and gave it for the school site. The building was constructed, using native stone. In 1941 the school opened in January, at mid-term. Through thick and thin, the school has maintained its position in the annals of Georgia education as an "isolated" school, and continues to this day. It was named to honor the Woodys, father and son, who labored long to get the school located in Suches.

Now to the three militia districts in Suches. How did

Canada get its name? It is believed that some of the early settlers there thought their new mountain home resembled areas of Canada, and thus the name. Who knows? As for Cooper's Creek and Gaddistown, these names can definitely be traced to early settlers by the same name. On the fast-flowing streams, the pioneers who had known how to build and operate grist mills in North Carolina and Tennessee used their expertise to channel the mountain streams for water power and to establish mills. With mills built, roads had to be cut for settlers to have a path

wide enough for their wagons to bring grains to be ground. Civilization was slow coming to this remote mountainous area of Georgia. Now citizens enjoy not only the beauty and majesty of surrounding mountains but the relative quiet and solitude of their mountain homes. Place names pay tribute to those who have gone before.

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Hospital Auxiliary promotes 'Books for Babies'

Union General Hospital Auxiliary President Betty Shank and Friends of the Library Books for Babies Chairperson Judy Shaner are pleased to join together to further promote the nationwide program in conjunction with the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) Books for Babies.

Books for Babies is an

ongoing program that presents books and an information packet to new mothers at Union General Hospital. If you are not familiar with the program, you may be asking, "Why do babies need books?" Ms. Shaner explains "literacy development begins at birth and is enhanced by parents interacting with their babies as

they read to them. Babies who are read to and engaged in lots of verbal interaction show superior language and math skills at they enter school."

How does the program work?

FOUCL purchase Books for Babies packets from FOLUSA containing a board storybook for baby, baby's first

library card, and brochures with reading tips and early literacy information FOUCL add local information for the new parents and another book for baby. Packets are delivered by volunteers to the new mothers in Union General Hospital.

Union General Hospital Auxiliary is pleased to be a part of this endeavor.

Second Wind Dream

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dream come true, the United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors enlisted the help of the Culinary Club at North Georgia Technical College. The Culinary Club played a special role in helping Ms. Lorena realize her dream to cook again by allowing her to participate in preparing an Italian meal and baking her favorite dessert, German Chocolate Cake.

Invitations for this special meal were sent to friends and family members. While the Culinary Club put together a wonderful meal, the Junior Board greeted and served the guests.

After the meal, Ms. Lorena traded her chef's hat for a grad-

uation cap. To help make her lifelong dream come true, Union County's School Superintendent, Tommy Stephens presented Ms. Lorena with an Honorary Diploma, as well as special gifts.

"With the blessings that abound everyday, people in our community should be able to have their dreams fulfilled," says Rita Gunter, Junior Board Representative. "I am so happy and proud that our Junior Board worked so hard to fulfill the dreams of this very special woman. I also want to give a special thank you to the North Georgia Tech Culinary Club and the Union County School District for making this all possible."

Training Workshop scheduled for S.A.F.E. Volunteers

Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving Towns and Union Counties, will be offering a volunteer training workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 30, at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris. Anyone interested in supporting the domestic violence and sexual abuse intervention services provided by S.A.F.E. is encouraged to attend. Training is mandatory for most volunteer roles.

There are a number of

opportunities available for volunteers interested in supporting S.A.F.E. Opportunities include grocery shoppers, childcare helpers, transportation and delivery assistance, client mentors, event coordinators, maintenance workers, landscapers and outdoor beautification, fundraisers, board members, administrative assistance, thrift store workers, court and hospital advocates and numerous other positions.

This volunteer training workshop is designed to pro-

vide a basic understanding of S.A.F.E., and the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in our society. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided. There are no fees for attending, but registration is required.

For more information on volunteer opportunities or to register, please call Kim Klaas at 706-379-1901 or e-mail her at kklaas@safeservices.org.

S.A.F.E. is the state certified domestic violence and sexual assault program serving

Towns and Union Counties, and is a certified associate member of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia. Partial funding is received from the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

AARP Driver Safety Program Scheduled for Blairsville

Drivers who are 50 or older can save on car insurance premiums and improve their

chances of avoiding accidents by attending the Driver Safety Program developed by AARP

(the American Association of Retired Persons).

The Bank of Blairsville and Raymond James Financial Services, at 10 Highway 515, Blairsville, GA, are sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety Program, to be held at the bank in two required sessions, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, April 18 & 19, 2007. This classroom refresher course is geared to help senior drivers to improve their skills and prevent crashes, and covers topics like safety strategies, age-related physical changes in perception and reaction time, hazardous traffic situations, and vehicle safety. Drivers need not be AARP members, and there are no written tests or driving tests. Refreshments and lunch (no charge) will be provided by the sponsor, and the class will be taught by AARP volunteer Instructor Chuck Esposito.

Georgia law requires all insurance companies to offer a discount on premiums to qualified policy holders who complete the course (check with your insurance company for details). AARP volunteer Instructors are not paid but there is an enrollment fee of \$10 per person to help defray the cost of the participant workbooks, handouts, etc. For more information or to enroll, call Janey Dyer at the Bank of Blairsville at 706.781.3166 Extension 622.

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