

# School...from Page 1A



Faculty and staff of Union County High School for 2017-2018 school year. Photo/Shawn Jar-rard

and representatives from both the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA spoke with children at the primary and elementary schools about joining their ranks.

Middle School Nurse Cathy Daniel conversed with kids and parents alike that night before school started, and said that she was looking forward to her second year at the middle school.

As Dr. Rayfield reported, the first day of school went well for everyone, and High School Principal C.T. Hussion concurred, starting a first day of his own as the new principal of the high school.

Earlier last week, Dr. Rayfield and the board office showed their appreciation for teachers with a special program designed to kick off an inspiring week of preplanning, on Monday, July 31, in the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

During that program, faculty and staff heard from three former Union County students who were invited back to tell their stories.

These students, though they differed in age and by graduation class, shared several things in common – they each had experienced immense hardship growing up, fought adverse circumstances with

the help of the Union County School System, and went on to be successful adults.

And Shelia Collins said there wasn't a dry eye in the house that Monday.

Collins, who retired as co-principal of Woody Gap School last year and returned this year to teach part-time in Suches, was personally thanked by one of the returning students whom she taught decades prior.

She said that giving back was just a Suches and Union County thing to do.

"To the Suches community, we appreciate all the supplies they gave," said Collins, noting that Woody Gap students don't have to purchase school supplies for all the donations. "And to the parents, we appreciate all their support, and they do support us."

Woody Gap started the school year with a few changes, having added a cross country team for the first time ever under the guidance of Coach Robbie Hill.

Taking over from Hill in basketball will be former Union County High School Girls Basketball Coach David Tucker, who has transitioned to coaching basketball for middle and high boys and girls in Suches.

In fewer than two

weeks, students will receive a very fitting treat at school on the Friday before the Great American Eclipse – MoonPies and SunChips.

"We're going to be out all day during the Aug. 21 eclipse," said Dr. Rayfield. "We're going to get the kids their eclipse glasses the Friday before, when they get out."

"We'll do some things in the classroom leading up to the eclipse. We've got a science teacher from each school that is on an eclipse event committee, so they're going to plan some lessons around it."



First-grader Alex Lee with Kaye Rich on the first day of school. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Students loading the bus at the end of the first day back at Woody Gap School. Photo/Lily Avery

## 2017 Antique Appraisal Fair

What's in your closet or attic? Ever wonder what that beautiful old clock is worth? Maybe you're curious about the history of Great Aunt Thelma's china doll. The second annual Antique Appraisal Fair, sponsored by the Cherokee Trail Decorative Painters, will be held Friday, August 25, and Saturday, August 26, at the Towns County Civic Center, 67 Lakeview Circle, Hiawassee, GA, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring your family heirlooms, collectibles, and treasures from your attic to be identified and appraised. Doors open at 9 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hansen, certified appraisers and antiques dealers, will discuss and evaluate your items. Excluded from the appraisal event is fine art, but all other treasures such as furniture, dishes, clocks, jewelry, ceram-

ics, porcelain, glassware, dolls, toys, etc. are welcome. If your antique is too large, you may bring three good photos of your item, including close-up shots of any scars or damage.

There is a \$5 donation per item and a limit of three items per consultation, but you are welcome to go through registration with three items as many times as you want. Proceeds from this event will go towards targeted CTDP community service projects, including veterans' organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, Domestic Violence, Toys for Tots, Relay For Life, Habitat for Humanity, and children's education.

Cherokee Trail Decorative Painters is a nonprofit organization serving Fannin, Towns, Union, Gilmer, Clay, and Cherokee counties. NT(Aug9/23)CA