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after the full Senate votes on the budget.

Sen. Gooch, who represents Union County in Senate District 51, said he'll fight "tooth and nail" to prevent any cuts to the Sparsity Grants that play such an important role in funding for Woody Gap School.

"It's about \$246,000," Sen. Gooch said. "It would have a negative impact on Woody Gap School if the cut becomes a reality. I'm doing my best to make sure that doesn't happen."

Woody Gap School first began to receive Sparsity Grant funding in 1974, when it was designated as an Isolated School by state lawmakers. The reasoning behind the Sparsity Grant funding: due to its location of approximately 3,000 feet above sea level and being accessible only by way of hazardous, curvy mountain roads, Woody Gap School qualified for those funds.

The school provides classes from Pre-K through 12. In 1981 the school realized Standard School status and has been accredited by the Southern Association of Col-



Woody Gap seniors work to complete assignments in Michelle Twarog's Senior English class. Sparsity Grant funding for the school is in jeopardy at the State Capitol. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

leges since 1988.

Also, most recently, the state Board of Education determined that a merger of Union County and Woody Gap School is not feasible because consolidation of the two schools would result in a por-

tion of students whose travel time would exceed the state's prescribed criteria concerning travel time to and from school.

Union County School Board Chairman Gary Davenport said Woody Gap School

remains an important part of the Union County School System. "In my opinion, Woody Gap has been kept on the back burner for too long," Davenport said. "This board will do what it needs to do to keep Woody Gap School going."

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"Emma is the first individual female state champion to hail from Union County and it was great experience to be able to welcome her and her family to the State Capitol," State Rep. Allison said.

Garrison didn't just win the state title, she torched the state course in Carrollton, outdistancing more than 190 runners for a first place finish.

She clocked in at just under 20 minutes. In what had been an all boys club for nearly 40 years in Union County, Garrison joins Larry Turner, Jaime Gibson, and Chris Jones as a state champion. Garrison is the only female State Champion in the history of Union

County Schools.

Garrison's achievement marks the seventh state championship in school history thanks to her time of 19:56 – 14 seconds ahead of Wesleyan's Caroline Reed.

"It feels really good," Garrison said. "I'm so happy right now. I just wanted to do my best and I am really surprised that I got First Place."

The freshman phenom broke away early and held a 10-second lead over the 2011 Class AA State Champion and odds-on-favorite, Sahara Fletcher of Westminster.

Garrison stretched her lead to 20 seconds over Fletcher, before the Westmin-

ster senior dropped out of the race.

Coming down the home stretch, Garrison maintained her 15-20 second lead, and a roar could be heard from the Union County faithful as their young star topped the final hill and crossed the finish line in first place.

State Rep. Allison, along with Sen. Gooch, took the time to document the historic achievement last week at the State Capitol and thanked Garrison for taking the time to visit them in Atlanta.

"It is an honor to be able to represent such a great community in Atlanta," State Rep. Allison said.

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the band was excited about the opportunity to open for Three Dog Night.

"We are honored to be opening for these legendary music icons," he said. "It just doesn't get any better than this."

Three Dog Night, a Grammy-nominated band with 21 Top 40 Billboard hits, including three No. 1s, bring their classic hits of the early '70s, along with their latest releases.

Their hits include *Mama Told Me Not to Come*, *Liar*, *Old Fashioned Love Song*, *Eli's Coming*, *Joy to the World*, *Never Been to Spain*, and *One*.

The band has reached out to new audiences via 21st century music technology as fans today are buying their music on iTunes as well as at music stores. They have sold over a million copies of their music in the past decade.

Their well-loved hits plus some amazing new songs cross generational boundaries as they maintain an aggressive, year-round touring schedule.

Two of the original founding members Cory Wells and Danny Hutton, will be performing on lead vocals, with original keyboardist Jimmy Greenspoon and original guitarist Michael Allsup. Bassist and vocalist Paul Kingery and drummer Pat Bautz complete the musical lineup.

Recently, the band added new songs to their repertoire by releasing their first double-A sided single in nearly 25 years.

"In today's world of widespread digital distribution, we thought it would be significant to put out new music as we did in the past by releasing a two-sided single first," said Hutton.

Now these new releases, *Heart of Blues* and a beautiful acappella ballad *Prayer of the Children* are fast becoming fan favorites. *Prayer of the Children*, discovered and arranged by Hutton, marks the first time in the band's 40-year history that vocals of all six members of the band are featured.

"This is a creative business and we needed to do new things simply for the soul and life of the band," said Wells.

Historically, the band's



Three Dog Night performs Saturday at Anderson Music Hall.

song choices have been eclectic and that is again demonstrated with their new material.

"We are working in every kind of genre you can think of," said Hutton. "No matter what kind of music you're into, you'll hear something you love during our live show. We've had hits on all the charts, Pop, Rock, Country, and R & B. Our music has truly broad appeal."

"We love the audiences reaction to all of our songs," said Hutton.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason invites fans to come out and enjoy this performance and wants to re-

mind everyone that they still have tickets available for this show.

"We appreciate all the support we get from the folks of Towns, Union and surrounding counties," she said. "We try to bring a lot of variety to the Music Hall and we hope you will continue to come out and support the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' concerts."

Country Music rising star Chris Young will be coming to The Hall on April 12th and tickets go on sale Friday.

For more details, call the Fairgrounds' office at (706) 896-4191 or check out their Web site at georgiamountainfairgrounds.com.

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