

Towns County Sports

Town's County's Leader In Sports



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YHC to host Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament

The annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College will be held on Monday, May 17, at Brasstown Valley Resort.

While adding new educational opportunities for students, Young Harris College continues to embrace its heritage, tradition and unique academic experience that set it apart from other colleges. Part of that tradition is ensuring that students continue to benefit from small classes, personal attention from faculty and opportunities for financial assistance.

As Young Harris College moves ahead as a four-

year college, support of this annual event is particularly critical. Young Harris College is committed to providing new juniors and seniors with the financial aid needed to stay and complete their bachelor's degree.

"The tournament is our premier fundraising opportunity for student scholarships and all proceeds are used to provide scholarships for YHC students," said Jennifer McAfee, Young Harris College director of development and planned giving.

Players will enjoy morning and afternoon flights, a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch, an awards

ceremony and prizes for low net and low gross categories in each flight and a complimentary team photo. The tournament will also feature an Alumni Team Challenge. The team with the lowest score will win a special award.

Located in Young Harris, Ga., Brasstown Valley Resort is home to a 7,000 yard, championship par-72 links-style golf course that is ranked by Golf Digest as one of the top 10 places to play in the state.

For player registration and sponsorship opportunities at this event, contact Jennifer McAfee at (706) 379-5318 or jmcafee@yhc.edu. NT(May12, E)SH

2010 4-H Georgia State BB Gun Championship



The 2010 Towns County 4-H BB Gun Team with the trophies provided by the Sons of the American Legion: Ed Jones, Carol Rosenqvist, William Lovelady, Phillip Lovell, McKenzie Henderson, Jessi Patrick, Walker Ross, Bill Wendel, Reed Moss, Mitch Floyd, Ruby Rhinesmith, A.T. Sorrells, Dazy Perry

Combine 590 well-behaved, fourth thru eighth grade armed competitors representing ninety-four 5-7 man teams and 40 competitors shooting as Individuals; add 1100+/- adult parents, coaches etc.; stir in some 80 degree rainless weather with only a zephyr of wind and you are describing the 2010 4-H Georgia State BB Gun Championships. That's the way it was at "Rock Eagle", the 4-H Center located near Eatonton, GA, on Saturday, 1 May 2010. Gun Safety was the prevalent message and was scrupulously practiced by all in attendance.

Towns County entered one team and one shooting as an individual in the contest. These athletes represented the result of four months of weekly practice with their coaches. They left Hiawassee Friday afternoon to spend the evening and night in one of the many cabins by the lake at Rock Ea-

gle. Saturday they would be "on the range" by 8 a.m. and compete until about 5 p.m.

The team coaches had left earlier Friday for The Rock to handle registration and set up of the firing point, tents and shelters for the following day. The coaches were all members of the Chatuge Gun Club and are Certified NRA Rifle Instructors. The seven volunteers were: Carol Rosenqvist, Ruby Rhinesmith, Ed Jones, Mitch Mitchell, Bill Wendel, "Dazy" Perry and A.T. Sorrells. Several of these coaches have been doing this for longer than 12 years.

When the "smoke cleared" after shooting 10 shots for record in each of the 4 positions; Prone, Standing, Sitting and Kneeling and completing a written test on shooting fundamentals and safety, the competitors and their followers packed up camp and headed home to Hiawassee to await the results.

I have been working with this program for the past 14 years and must say this is the most successful and skilled group yet. They keep getting better each year. The total score is an aggregate of 100 points in each of 4 positions and 100 + points from a written examination covering gun safety and marksmanship basics. Most competitors fired scores at this competition that were higher than any of their past scores, proving they can rise to the cause. To mention a few: Jessi Patrick 457/500; Reed Moss 439/500; William Lovelady 436/500; Walker Ross 430/500; McKenzie Henderson 413/500 and shooting as an individual, Phillip Lovell 385/500. Congratulations to all the shooters and thanks to the parents who helped and just remember.....

C ya'll next year.

Submitted by Ed Jones

TM(May12, F)SH

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter



Denny Hamlin

HAMLIN SWEEPS DARLINGTON

Darlington, SC - Denny Hamlin followed his Nationwide Series win Friday night with his third Cup Series victory of the season in Saturday's Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway.

"To pull off the sweep on Mother's Day Weekend - I gotta say Happy Mother's Day to my mom, Mary Lou," Hamlin said. "Just a great weekend for us. We had a top-two car all day. The pit crew got me out first and that was key."

"I can't tell you how excited I am about us winning right now because I know what our team is capable of when we get to Chase time. We are running last year's cars for the most part, and we're just kind of easing our way into it. We didn't expect this success, but we felt like we could contend for race wins and maybe get one here or there in the first 12."

The weekend sweep was the first at Darlington since Mark Martin accomplished the feat in 1993.

Pole-sitter Jamie McMurray, who finished third in the Nationwide race, led 71 laps and finished second for his fourth top-10 with Ganassi at Darlington.

"We had a good car, but Bono (crew chief Kevin Manion) called a good race," said McMurray. "Qualifying first, getting to have that pit stall, it made a huge difference."

"Darlington has just always been a really good track for me. I always liked this place."

Kurt Busch recorded his first top-10 in five Darlington races with Penske Racing with a third-place finish.

"We really fought hard," Busch said. "It was a good run for us here at Darlington. I haven't had a solid run like tonight since Ricky Craven and I battled it out for that win (2003)."

After skipping the 2009 event and failing to qualify in 2008, Hamlin backed up his wins from the pole in 2006 and 2007 with another commanding victory.

Hamlin led 111 of the 147 laps and held off his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch for his 10th career win. The victory was also the first for crew chief Kevin Kidd since taking over for Dave

to the 13th position for the restart. He rallied back to finish fourth.

"That is what happens when you make a mistake," Gordon said. "You have to make it up to your guys who worked so hard all weekend long to give you a race car like that."

Defending series champion Jimmie Johnson endured a tough night that ended in a violent crash with AJ Allmendinger on lap 181.

Allmendinger lost his brakes as he raced through turn three and slid down on the track apron before spinning back on the track, directly in the path of Johnson. They made hard contact with severe damage to both cars, although neither driver was injured.

"The brake rotor exploded," Allmendinger said. "I was just trying to aim for the bottom and try to miss everybody. I'm sorry to Jimmie. It wasn't his fault, but I had no brakes and couldn't do anything about it."

Johnson was handed a 36th place finish and now trails leader Kevin Harvick in the standings by 110 points.

"All I know is at the last minute I saw a green bumper and it was a hard hit," Johnson said. "Unfortunately, we had all kinds of issues tonight. Got caught up in all kinds of little small things."

The remaining top-10 finishers were Juan Montoya, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, Jeff Burton, Ryan Newman, and Brian Vickers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished 18th.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 11 of 36: 1. Harvick-1622, 2. Johnson-1512, 3. Kyle Busch-1509, 4. J. Gordon-1475, 5. Kenseth-1472, 6. Hamlin-1458, 7. Biffle-1431, 8. Kurt Busch-1420, 9. Burton-1394, 10. Martin-1357, 11. Edwards-1345, 12. Earnhardt-1318

Hamlin gets Darlington Nationwide win

Denny Hamlin captured his first win of the weekend in Friday night's NASCAR Nationwide Series Royal Purple 200 to remain undefeated in the three races he's started from the pole in at Darlington Raceway.

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Rodgers, who is now Busch's crew chief.

Jamie McMurray, Kasey Kahne, Jason Leffler, Carl Edwards, Brad Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Brian Vickers, and Paul Menard were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Harvick and Childress close to new deal

Richard Childress said ongoing negotiations between he and driver Kevin Harvick have resulted in what could be a deal to keep Harvick in the RCR fold, at least for the foreseeable future.

"We've been talking," Childress said. "Hopefully we'll have something together here in a week or so. ... It's good for RCR and Kevin and all of us that we can put this back together."

Childress said he expects something to be finalized before the end of the month.

A contract extension would heal the apparent rift that grew between Harvick and Childress in recent months. Last fall, Harvick said "I'm ready to turn the page" when asked about his relationship with the team.

According to Childress, the team's improving competitiveness was a major factor in Harvick's decision to stay where he's been since he was named to replace Dale Earnhardt in 2001. During that time, Harvick has won 12 races in NASCAR's premiere series -- including two weeks ago at Talladega -- and leads the point standings.

"Probably, because we've been performing better," continued Childress.

Shell recently announced plans to end its association with RCR at the end of the season, moving on to Penske Racing as Kurt Busch's sponsor. Childress said a replacement sponsorship deal is reportedly part of the negotiation.

Weekend Racing: It's on to Dover's Monster Mile for all three of NASCAR's major series.

Fri., May 14, Camping World Trucks, race 6 of 25, Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sat., May 15, Nationwide Series, race 11 of 36, Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ABC.

Sun., May 16, Cup Series Autism 400, race 12 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Jeff Burton drive for?

Last Week's Question: Where is Brad Keselowski's hometown? Answer: Rochester Hills, Michigan.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net NT(May12, G)gg

Local studio promoting dance education

The Stephanie Grace Dance Center of Murphy has been working hard this year to promote the importance of dance education among children in our local community. Owner and Artistic Director, Stephanie Turcotte, has been challenging and encouraging students to broaden their artistic abilities and to become proactive in the dance world. Established in 2007, The Stephanie Grace Dance Center (SGDC) offers the most extensive and versatile dance program in the tri-state area. In addition to offering a wide variety of dance styles, SGDC has also developed the performance company "In Motion," which is composed of eight intermediate and advanced dancers who train for a total of five to eight hours per week. These are our elite and most determined dancers who have dedicated themselves to perfecting their craft. In addition to their hours spent in



Local dancers attending private workshop with dancer/choreographer Stephani Kammer.

classes, these company members perform at local functions, travel to outstanding conventions, and have the hopes of becoming a competitive team. In the fall of 2009 "In Motion" participated in the Tremaine Dance Convention in Atlanta with some of the most well

known choreographers in the business. SGDC also had the pleasure of hosting a workshop in February with one of Janet Jackson's core dancers, Miss Stephani Kammer.

Most recently, SGDC performed at three local schools in the community to celebrate National Dance Week. "We feel it is extremely important to develop dance education in our community," Turcotte said. "Not only does it promote a healthy physical awareness, but it also acts as a creative outlet, encourages a positive self-image, and provides children with strong discipline."

With the end of the dance year coming to a close, SGDC would like to invite the community to attend their Annual Student Recital titled "Now That's Entertainment!" The showcase will be held at the Clegg Auditorium at Young Harris College on Saturday, May 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased in advance at The Stephanie Grace Dance Center or at the door the day of the performance. After a short break SGDC will be holding their Summer Dance Intensive June 21 - June 25. SGDC will also be offering a new Cheer Intensive throughout the month of July. Registration will be held at SGDC May 17 - May 20 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Please call (828) 835-7087 for more details.

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura



Blairsville's Eric Whitener in the Blackwell Auto Chevy carries the flag at Tri-County.

Sunny day brings exciting action at local track

Finally, the weather was good for the local tracks for this weekend's racing action. After two rain outs, Tri-County Race Track in nearby Brasstown, NC put cars on the newly clayed oval that saw super fast times with Hayesville's Charlie Parker winning the Late Model feature over a hard charging Jamie Oliver as the Peachtree driver worked his way through the pack as a bad qualifying effort put him dead last in the 10 car main event. Bobby Panter took third as like Oliver, he had to recover from a spin while challenging for the lead and had to go to the back of the pack. Preston Crisp and Doug Sneed rounded out the top five.

Copperhill, TN driver Jason Deal won the first points race of the year in the GM Performance Late Model feature when he out paced Nick Sellers, Kevin Sutton, Kevin Bradshaw and Eric Whitener.

One of the best races of the night saw 13 cars entered in the Cornwell Tools Modified Street feature with Toccoa driver Nick Sellers edging out Heather Taylor for the action packed win. Brothers Justin and Brad Thomas took third and fourth places with Chris Thompson filling out the top five.

Andrews ace Marty Clark lead an eight car field of Mini Stock drivers across the finish line in a near caution free 15-

lap event in front of J. J. Garrett, Shannon Jones, Darrell Hodgkin and Ricky Dyer.

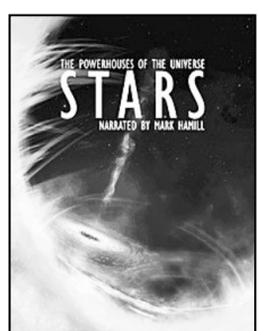
Action at the other area tracks saw Ray Cook win over Randy Weaver at North Georgia Speedway's \$5,000 to win Southern All Stars race. Randy Weaver was second with Skip Arp third. Arp won Friday night at Boyds Speedway as Cook took second. Jacob Grizzle took fourth. With a seventh place at Wartburg Speedway, Grizzle holds on to the Southern Regional Racing Series points lead by 150 points over second place challenger Tony Morris.

Jonathan Davenport finished second in the \$10,000 to win Battle in the Swamp at Waycross where Scott Bloomquist was the winner. Chris Madden took third.

Tony Knowles won at Cleveland Speedway, Wesley English won at Westminster Speedway, Royce Bray at Hartwell Speedway and Frank Ingram at Dixie Speedway. Lavonia was off and Toccoa closed last week and will reopen at the end of May under a new promoter.

Blairsville driver Tom Schuette has been having some good finishes at Lanier National Speedway. The Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway are this Thursday thru Sunday with tickets still available.

Stars at Rollins Planetarium



Young Harris College's O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium will present the full-dome show "STARS" during May, June and July.

The shows are scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on the following Friday evenings: May 14 and 21; June 4 and 18; and July 9 and 16. Planetarium admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free with YHC ID.

Every star has a story. Some are as old as time, faint and almost forgotten. Others

burn bright and end their lives in powerful explosions. New stars are created every day, born of vast clouds of gas and dust. Through every phase of their existence, stars release the energy that lights the cosmos. Journey to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and experience both the awesome beauty and destructive power of "STARS."

Suitable for all ages, this dramatic new program explores the powerhouses of the universe and man's relationship with the night sky throughout history. The show features stunning 3D animation and the voice talent of Mark Hamill, best known for his portrayal of Luke Skywalker in the original Star Wars trilogy. "STARS" is a production of Sudekum Planetarium at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville, TN, and is distributed by Sky-Skan, Inc.

Ranked third largest in Georgia by dome size, Rollins Planetarium features a state-of-the-art GOTO Chronos Space Simulator star projector with

a state-of-the-art full-dome digital projection system, the Sky-Skan Definiti, in a 40-foot dome theater. In addition to a full annual schedule of evening public shows, it offers daytime educational opportunities for school groups throughout the year. Rollins Planetarium is located in the Maxwell Center on the campus of Young Harris College.

If skies are clear, the Young Harris College Observatory is open immediately after planetarium shows. The observatory features a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and is located about 1.5 miles from campus at Brasstown Valley Resort. Maps are available at the planetarium. Observing sessions last up to one hour and include a guided tour of the constellations. The observatory is open on the same dates as Rollins Planetarium.

For more information about planetarium and observatory events, call (706) 379-5195 or visit www.yhc.edu.

Towns County Youth Cheerleading

Towns County Youth Cheerleading is now registering girls for the 2010 fall season. Forms will be sent home from school. You may also pick one up in the elementary school office. Please fill out and return the form with the \$60 dollar registration fee by June 5, 2010. This fee covers the rental of the uniform and pom-poms and a trophy.

Forms can be returned to Ellen Stephens at Towns County Elementary school until May 27, 2010 OR you may bring your form and check to the fitting session on June 5, 2010 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation Department. Please make checks payable to Towns County Youth Cheerleading.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in coaching a squad, please contact Ellen Stephens at 706-897-4999 or Bunny Williams 706-781-8945.