

Towns County Sports

Town's County's Leader In Sports



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Athletic teams use the Fair to supplement Towns athletic programs

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Year in, year out, the Georgia Mountain Fair plays a crucial role in the lives of Towns County athletes.

Each year, coaches, boosters and athletes alike man several booths that provide much needed dollars to purchase equipment, uniforms and other athletic accessories.

Whether its hawking chicken sandwiches, fries and drinks, to fruit smoothies, cold beverages or hot dogs, the athletes and their program directors are out in the hot sun in the Fairgrounds' Pioneer Village to make a difference for their respective athletic programs.

The Athletic Program and the high school band don't

have a line item in the school system's general budget. Rather, the athletes work long hours in their free time to raise money to support their respective sports teams.

The 2010 Georgia Mountain Fair was no exception as the athletes continued the storied tradition of fundraising for Towns County athletics.

Our hats are off to the athletes, their coaches and boosters for going the extra mile to make sure sports continues to be a part of the Towns County Schools.

With four days left before the 2010 Georgia Mountain Fair becomes history, stop by and be a patron at the athletic booths.

Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Towns County High School Band members man the Hotdog Booth at United Community Bank



Towns County Fast Pitch Softball players in charge of the Smoothie booth



Towns County Indians football players and wrestlers man the Chicken Sandwich Booth



Towns County Lady Indians basketball players in charge of the Beverage Booth

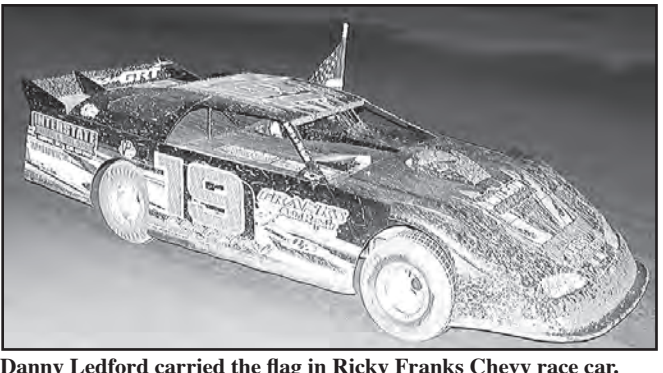
VFW Golf League news

The play day format for Thursday, July 22nd was the regular "A" Scramble. The weather was so hot that turnout was only 10 members. Hats off to all that braved the

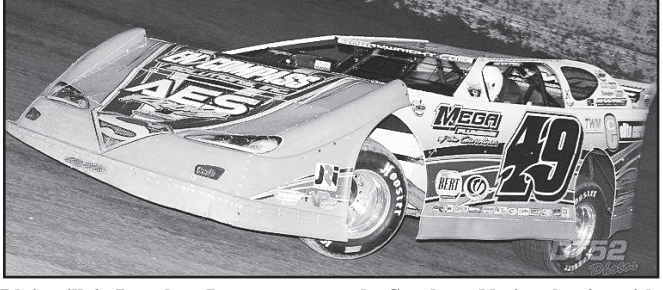
heat and humidity. The winning team was Robert Lyle, Chuck Woodworth and Ray Ward with a score of 68, coming in -4 under for the round. T(Jul28,F2)SH

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura



Danny Ledford carried the flag in Ricky Franks Chevy race car.



Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport won the Southern National points title

Rock N' Roll Festival to be held at Meeks Park



The Mountain United Soccer Association is hosting the second annual Rock N' Roll Festival at Meeks Park on August 28 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The bands performing at this time are The High Five Band, Sundown, and the Rubber Band. It should be a lot of fun. This is an outdoor

event so everyone bring your lawn chair or blanket. The proceeds will benefit the soccer association. Advance tickets are available for \$4 or \$5 at the event. For more information contact the association at 706-745-7865. N(Jul28&Aug4,B4)SRH

MUSA soccer registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is still accepting registration forms for the Fall season. The association has provided youth soccer in Union and Towns counties for over 24 years. The program serves over 500 players annually. The season will begin in early September. Teams will be filled based on date of receipt. A player must be at least 4 years old on August 1, 2010 to be eligible. Registration forms were mailed to current members. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

Blairsville-Blimpie, Branan Lodge; Hiawassee-Towns County Recreation Department and the Marathon Gas Station and Mountain Lakes Mortgage. We will be hosting our annual Rock N' Roll Festival "Kickin at the Park" on August 28th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bands will be performing good rock and roll music. Tickets are available by calling the organization. For more information, contact us at 706-745-7865 or visit www.mountainssoccer.org. NT(Jul28,Z5)SH

North Georgia Rapids summer wrapup

The "League Championship Swim Meet" was recently held to signify the end of the summer swim competition. The North Georgia Rapids had six swimmers compete in this two day event. Our swimmers did very well and more than held their own in this large meet. Gracie Weldon earned two third place medals and ribboned in her other two events in a field of over 60 swimmers. Megan Foster, competing in the girl's 9-10 age group, earned two ribbons with her best being a fifth place finish in the 25 yd. breaststroke. This age group consisted of over 65 swimmers. The team's older girls included MegAnn Bradley, Courtney Marshall and Jennifer Chinnici. This highly competitive age group had over 40 swimmers from the league's twelve teams and includes girls highly dedicated to compete at this level. Courtney earned a

third place medal in the 50 yd. backstroke and three other ribbons in her four events. Jennifer won three ribbons with her best finishes being two fifth places in the 100 yd. freestyle and 50 yd. butterfly. MegAnn had two personal best times in just her third competitive swim meet. Tanner Gay, the team's only senior swimmer, won two medals, a second in the 50 yd breaststroke and a third place award in the 100 yd. individual medley. Tanner also won two fourth place ribbons and finished the day tied for fourth place overall in a field of over thirty swimmers. The team members will now take a much deserved break and start back in August to continue training for the approaching fall season. The team practices year round at the Union General Hospital's Wellness Center here in Blairsville. NT(Jul28,X1)SH

Davenport wins points title

Jonathan Davenport had an exceptional two weeks on the Ray Cook promoted Southern Nations tour that had 10 races in 13 days and walked away with the points title while winning three races and three second place finishes. Davenport won at East Alabama Motor Speed, Volunteer Speedway and Tazewell Speedway, both in Tennessee. Other winners on the tour were Casey Roberts, Clint Smith, Chris Madden and Bud McCool. The Southern Regional Racing Series visited North Georgia Speedway Saturday night and saw Hall of Fame driver Ronnie Johnson sitting in Victory Lane at the end of the night. At Toccoa Speedway, James Roulette won the main event while Parker Herring won the Southeastern Sportsman Series event. Murphy driver Jamie Oliver returned to Tri-County after running on the Super Late Model circuit the last two weeks and out dueling the eight car field for another victory. Robbinsville driver Preston Crisp had his best finish of the year with a strong second place finish on the super fast clay oval. Danny Ledford blasted his way through the field for third after being sent to the back of the pack when he got into the back of Bobby Panter on the back stretch, spinning both cars. Panter was fourth and Doug Sneed rounded out the top five.

After qualifying only three cars made the starting line up in the GM Performance Late Model feature but it was the best race of the night when Young Harris's Tony Ledford jumped to the lead as Sam Paris and Kevin Bradshaw were inches behind for 20 of the 25 laps. Blue Ridge's Sam Parris went to the high groove, rim riding the out side wall and moved to the front for the last five laps for his first win of the season. Jason Deal was credited with fourth place. Thirteen cars started the Cornwell Tools Modified Street feature and made it through 13 laps before the first caution for Mike Bryson's spin. Brasstown's Greg Suderth who took the lead over Barry Cross held on for the final two laps as Cross, Heather Taylor, Charles Devine and Brad Thomas rounded out the top five spots.

Andrews' driver Josh Roberts won the battle of Chevys when he edged out Hiawassee's Ricky Smith in the Street Stock feature. Crossing under the checkered flag were Charles Toomey, Harold Garrett and Jeremy Woody in the top five.

Sylvia driver Justin Woodard debuted his new Toyota for a win in the Mini Stocks over Shannon Jones, Joshua Cordin, Gary Wilkins and Herbert Chinn. Tri-County is taking Saturday, July 31 off for vacation and returns August 7th with the 100 mph Georgia Mini Sprints and racing in all classes.

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter



Jamie McMurray

McMurray claims Brickyard 400 win

Indianapolis, Ind.—Jamie McMurray gained the lead from Kevin Harvick on a restart with 15 laps to go in the 17th running of the 160-lap Brickyard 400, and pulled away for his fifth career Sprint Cup victory.

"When Kevin got by me with just a few laps to go, I thought it was over," said McMurray. "My car was real tight, but he gave me the outside on the restart, and that was what I needed. I was better at the end."

"With 10-laps to go my crew chief said, "Do what you've got to do and don't worry about those other guys."

McMurray became only the third driver in series history to win both the Daytona 500 and Brickyard 400 in the same year. The other two drivers were Dale Jarrett (1996) and Jimmie Johnson (2006).

His win also gave team owner Chip Ganassi his first Trifecta; a win in the Daytona 500, Brickyard 400, and Indianapolis 500.

McMurray's teammate, Juan Montoya started on the pole and led 86 laps. During a caution period late in the race, Montoya's team elected to put four fresh tires on his car, while most of the other teams only took two.

When Montoya returned to the track he was eighth. Then on lap 143, he spun out of control and hit the outside wall. As he slid down the track, Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran into him, putting both cars out of the race. Earnhardt finished 27th, while Montoya was 32nd. Second-place finisher, Kevin Harvick is still the points leader.

"I got tight going into the corner and I had to wait on my car, and Jamie was able to use the momentum he had to get by me," said Harvick. "My car never acted like that again. We had a top-5 car, and we had a chance to win, but couldn't quite make it happen."

Greg Biffle, Clint Bowyer, Tony Stewart, Jeff Burton, Carl Edwards, Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, and Kurt Busch were the remaining top-10 drivers.

Top-20 Chase contenders after 20 of 36 races. Note: Only the top-12 drivers will

be in the final 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. 1. Harvick-2920, 2. J. Gordon-2736, 3. Hamlin-2660, 4. Johnson-2659, 5. Kurt Busch-2658, 6. Kyle Busch-2630, 7. Burton-2615, 8. Kenseth-2573, 9. Stewart-2544, 10. Edwards-2496, 11. Biffle-2462, 12. Bowyer-2446, 13. Martin-2384, 14. Earnhardt-2353, 15. Newman-2299, 16. McMurray-2295, 17. Kahne-2290, 18. Reutimann-2269, 19. Logano-2241, 20. Truex-2145

Kyle Busch bests Edwards in Nationwide race

There was no controversial finish in last Saturday night's Nationwide series race, but for the second week race in a row, Carl Edwards went side-by-side for the lead on the final lap, but Kyle Busch held Edwards off to win the Kroger 200 at the 0.686-mile track.

Last week at Gateway International Raceway, Edwards dumped Brad Keselowski coming to the checkered flag, triggering a multicausal accident and forcing NASCAR to penalize both drivers.

This time, Edwards raced Busch cleanly, and Busch grabbed his 38th career Nationwide Series victory, second only to Mark Martin on the all-time win list. Martin has 48 wins in the series.

Edwards and some others on the lead lap pitted for fresh tires on Lap 162, with Edwards restarting 11th with 28 laps to go. Edwards sliced through the top-10 to get to second, and a caution came out with six laps to go.

On the green-white-checkered restart, Busch got the jump on Edwards into Turn 1, though Edwards tried to get to the inside lane on the white flag lap and on the final lap. But Busch was up to the task. He led four times for 144 laps.

Ron Hornaday, who won Friday night's Camping World Truck Series race here, ran in the top-five for most of the race until he and the lapped car of J.C. Stout got together in Turn 2 on Lap 161, and he finished 28th.

Aric Almirola, Trevor Bayne, Reed Sorenson, Brendan Gaughan, Justin Allgaier, Brad Keselowski, Paul Menard, and Steven Wallace were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 points leaders after 20 of 35: 1. Keselowski-3189, 2. Edwards-2989, 3. Allgaier-2691, 4. Kyle Busch-2681, 5. Menard-2505, 6. Harvick-2434, 7. S. Wallace-2338, 8. Gaughan-2277, 9. Bayne-2205, 10. Lefler-2161

Hornaday is Indy truck winner

Ron Hornaday snapped a 22-race winless streak in the Truck Series on Friday night, winning the AAA Insurance

200 at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis ahead of Kyle Busch.

Top-10 points leaders after 12 of 25: 1. Bodine-1861, 2. Almirola-1684, 3. Sauter-1679, 4. Hornaday-1649, 5. Peters-1649, 6. Dillon-1584, 7. Crafton-1583, 8. Skinner-1574, 9. Starr-1528, 10. White-1493

Early NASCAR driver passes

Earl Brooks of Lynchburg, VA passed away last week. His life story proves that not all the winners see victory lane. In his 262 race Cup career, Brooks never got to the checkered flag first, but the man still played an important part in NASCAR history.

Brooks began competing in NASCAR Grand National Racing in 1962, with most of his starts coming between 1967 and 1971, while Richard Petty, Bobby Allison, David Pearson and Bobby Isaacs were trading paint.

But that is not his real claim to fame.

Perhaps he will be best remembered for the way he offered help to the lone African-American to win a top series NASCAR race, Wendell Scott. Brooks and Scott traveled together, shared tools and shared parts. At a time when doing such a thing wasn't so fashionable, Brooks and Ned Jarrett were a big part of keeping Wendell Scott competitive.

Brooks also owned cars driven by Dave Marcis, Ed Negre, and Dick May among others. He was known as the "Earl of Lynchburg," hailing from that Virginia City. He was 80 years old.

Not all winners get trophies, and not everyone who gets trophies is a winner. Earl Brooks, in his own understated way, was a champion.

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Truck teams will be at the 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway in Pennsylvania. The Nationwide teams travel to Newton, Iowa. Sat., July 31, Camping World Truck Series race 13 of 25; Starting time: 12:30 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sat., July 31, U. S. Cellular 250 Nationwide Series race 21 of 35; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Aug. 1 Sprint Cup Pennsylvania 500, race 21 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the 2005 Sprint Cup champion?

Last Week's Question: Who was the winner of the inaugural Brickyard 400? Answer: Jeff Gordon won the inaugural Brickyard 400 in 1994.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net N(Jul28,GG)

Free clogging lessons

To celebrate a successful competition season, Blairsville School of Dance is offering free beginning clogging lessons to the community. The three-week session will begin on Thursday, July 29 at 7 p.m. The remaining sessions will be on August 5 and August 12. The beginning session is a package, so students

should plan to attend all three lessons. The class is open to anyone age 5 and older. Clogging shoes are not required. Space is limited, so call (706) 835-1415 or emailinfo@blairsvilleschoolofdance.com to reserve your spot. Blairsville School of Dance is also offering an all-ages Beginning Hip Hop

Workshop, which will be held July 29, August 5 and August 12 at 6 p.m., immediately before the clogging workshop.

Blairsville School of Dance is located at 90 Blue Ridge Street in the Merchant's Walk Plaza in downtown Blairsville. In addition to offering beginning, intermediate and advanced clogging lessons and recreational groups,

Blairsville School of Dance is home to the BSOD Tour de Force competition clogging teams, which perform and compete throughout the southeast. BSOD also offers recreational and competition classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop, preschool dance, tap, lyrical and more and is now registering for the 2010-11 season.